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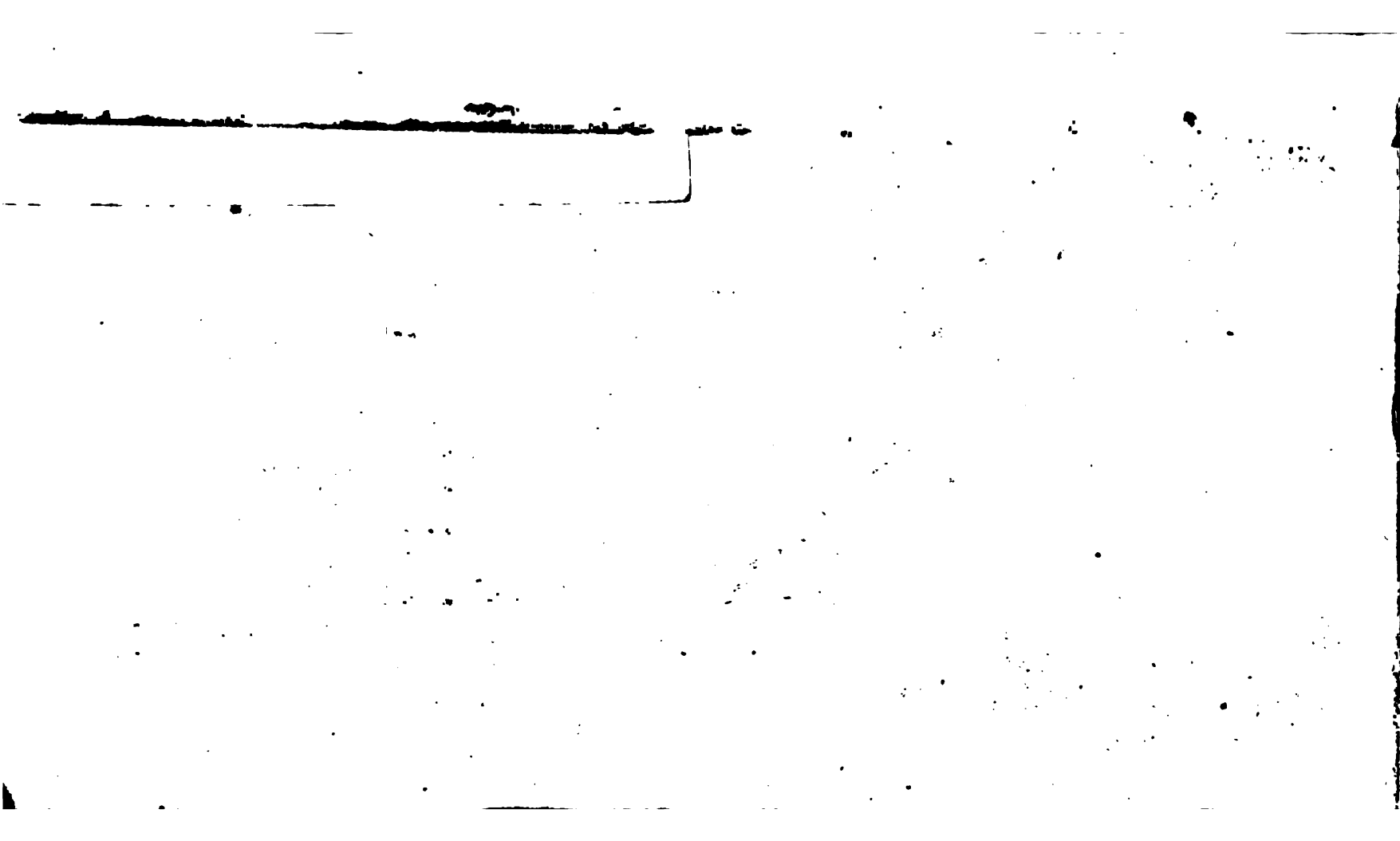

A NEW MAP OF
SCOTLAND
with the Caledonian Canal.
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Scale of Miles.
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EDINBURGH
ADDINGTON
BERWICK
ROXBURGH
PEEBLES
LANERK
DUMFRIES
KIRKUDBRIGHT
WIGTON
NORTHUMBERLAND
IRELAND
NORTH CHANNEL
Loch Neagh
Belfast
Carrickfergus
Larne
Donaghadee
Glasgow
Paisley
Greenock
Dumbarton
Inverary
Campbeltown
Girvan
Stranraer
Wigton
Whitehaven
Carlisle
Newcastle
Morpeth
Berwick
Dunbar
Haddington
Linlithgow
Lochmaben
Jedburgh
Kelso
Hawick
Selkirk
Peebles
Moffat
Lanark
Douglas
Biggar
Ayr
Irvine
Kilmarnock
Dumfries
Annan
Gretna
Longtown
Brampton
Cockermouth
Keswick
Penrith
Hexham
Alnwick
Tweed R.
Solway Firth
Clyde R.
Forth R.
Tyne R.
Esk R.
Nith R.
Annan R.
Liddel R.
Irthing R.
Ruthlin I.
Mull of Galloway
Ailsa Craig
Arran
Islay
Jura
Mull
Skye
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Loch Linnhe
Loch Lomond
Loch Katrine
Loch Tay
Loch Earn
Loch Leven
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Loch Naver
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Loch Rannoch
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Loch Erichd
Loch Shin
Loch Naver
Loch Eriboll
Loch Inchard
Loch Assynt
Loch Broom
Loch Fleet

Nasmyth del.t

Heath sculpt.

A Prospect of Edinburgh from the West

TRAVELS

IN

SCOTLAND,

BY AN

UNUSUAL ROUTE:

WITH

A TRIP

TO THE

ORKNEYS AND HEBRIDES.

CONTAINING

HINTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

IN

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

WITH CHARACTERS AND ANECDOTES,

EMBELLISHED WITH VIEWS OF STRIKING OBJECTS,

AND

A MAP, INCLUDING THE CALEDONIAN CANAL.

BY THE

REV. JAMES HALL, A.M.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

London:

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1807.

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

DAVID STEUART ERSKINE,

EARL OF BUCHAN.

My Lord,

I have nothing to offer worthy of a Mecænas, descended of antient kings. Yet, I hope, your lordship may peruse, not without a degree of interest, a tour through your native country, by a route in some measure new, and that may unfold facts, circumstances, and situations of men in society, not perhaps always known even to those who make these their study.

Men placed on the elevation of illustrious descent and high rank, of minds naturally erect and noble, and expanded and refined by the arts and sciences, take long and comprehensive views. They look back to the past, around them on every side, and forward to what is to come after them.—Selfish and

grovelling calculators, whether in business or politics, consider refined and generous pursuits as romance and folly; and, without either a sense of honour, or regard to natu re, truth, and justice, study, in all things, not what is graceful, excellent, and right, but what, at the moment, seems advantageous or prudent. But the true and accomplished nobleman considers nothing as foreign to himself that is interesting to human nature, admires virtue for her own sake, loves his country, the centre of every association of moral ideas, prefers glory to riches, and, instead of bowing to present power and upstart authority, devotes his attentions to great and permanent objects. He promotes the happiness with the improvement of mankind, intellectual and moral.

I therefore hope, my lord, that you will extend your noble and generous patronage and protection to my book: which has much need of such patronage and protection, as a counterbalance to that *odium* which will arise from a free exposure of grievances and abuses; and these too, in one instance, ex-

isting to a flagrant degree, in a quarter where they were but little to be suspected.

The case, my lord, to which I allude has a particular claim to the consideration and care of a family, renowned for their love of the muses, and the love with which that is returned.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,
My Lord,
With the profoundest esteem,
Your Lordship's
Obedient and humble servant,

JAMES HALL.

LONDON,
June 4, 1806.

TRAVELS IN SCOTLAND.

FROM EDINBURGH TO STIRLING.

HAVING procured letters of recommendation to some of the best informed men in the places I meant to visit, I left Edinburgh, the 15th of April, 1803, on a Tour to the North.

As most of the travellers who have written their remarks, have chosen summer or harvest for their journey, I also wished to see the aspect of the country when the mountains were beginning to lay aside their winter garb. Therefore, bidding adieu to my friends in the capital, I prepared for my journey.

As there never was and never will be any thriving city or village at a distance from water carriage, and, as every large city or town always has been and always will be situated either on the sea-coast or the banks of some navigable river, I resolved to travel the whole of the sea-coast of Scotland, as also the banks of her most eminent rivers; and, while I thus amused myself, to compare the local improvements, the notions, customs, and follies of the people, with what they are represented to have been in former times; with those existing at present in a sister kingdom; and to

make, if I could, from the comparisons that might occur, some observations of a practical and useful nature.

When I came to the Queen's Ferry, so called because Margaret, Malcolm III's Queen, used frequently to pass there in her way to and from Dumfermline, where she resided, I saw one of the passage boats labouring much, and with difficulty turned by the boatman. The ships of the antients, particularly large ones (and Diodorus Siculus tells us that some of them were so large as to contain from three to four thousand men) had always two helms, or rudders; one at the stem or prow, and another at the stern; and sometimes one at each side, as we see in large barges on the Thames at this day. Now as men in a boat with an oar at each end, acting in different directions, produce the same effect, and assist one another in turning her, might not a helm, or rudder at the *stem* as well as the *stern* of boats and other vessels, to be shipped and unshipped at pleasure, upon many occasions, be useful?

At Hopetoun House, the seat of the Earl of Hopetoun, I was much pleased with its beauty and elegance; its delightful situation, commanding an extensive view of the Frith of Forth, which once bounded the Roman Empire, and protected the Saxons from the incursions of the Scots; and the correctness and elegance of taste displayed in the extensive pleasure grounds around this splendid mansion.

The charter to this extensive estate is, I understand, a small slip of parchment, not bigger than

one's fingers, granting a right, as it is expressed, not only to the grounds, specifying their extent, but also to all the fowls, &c. &c. on it, or that fly over it, as high as heaven; and every thing on or below the surface, as low as hell.

I went next to view the Palace at Linlithgow, where Mary Queen of Scots was born. The room is but small, seemingly not much above 12 feet square, and not unlike that in the Castle of Edinburgh, where James VI. was born. However, the ruins of this antient palace serve to shew not only its great antiquity, but also that it has been extensive, and calculated to withstand a vigorous attack.

It is not difficult to account for some of the notions of our forefathers: but what could induce them to make the water, which is excellent here, to appear at the wells as spouting from the mouths of angels, is more than I can comprehend. To paint angels with wings is not unnatural; because they are the messengers of heaven, and are conceived as flying from heaven to earth, and earth to heaven, in obedience to the command of the Great Governor of all. But to represent them at the wells as spouting water from their mouths, certainly appears unnatural, I had almost said disgusting; as it seems to suggest the idea of their being drunkards, with the liquor running from their over-charged stomachs.

Carron Work, which is but a few miles from Linlithgow, I had seen before; but as I had not seen the boring of cannons, I went to see it again. The gentlemen here, I understand, a few years before, thought that nobody knew the boring of cannon but themselves. However, they were soon undeceived;

for, at Seringapatam and among the Gentoos, whom Europeans are led to think among the most ignorant of civilized people in the world, they found the boring of cannon of all kinds not only understood, but every day openly practised; that art having been carried thither by our good friends the French. And here I cannot help expressing my surprize, that, amidst the vast variety of useful and tremendous implements, that are made here, I found scarcely any iron windows. In Scotland, as the houses are generally built of stone, and require three or four sets of new windows before the walls tumble down, would it not be economical, as well as elegant, to have windows of all sorts of cast-iron? They could be painted any colour. The frames with care might last for ages, and the weight of the sashes, or moving parts, could be counter-balanced by the weights attached to them.

Horace says, that the man's breast must have been made of oak, who first ventured to sea in a ship; but what would he have said had he foreseen the day was approaching when men would venture to sea in *ships of iron!* We have now iron ships, iron bridges, iron roads, iron stairs, iron fences, and iron bedsteads. In short, if improvements go on here, as they have done; and the gentlemen connected with Carron Work exert their reasoning faculties a little longer, we may expect to see not only iron furniture of all kinds, but houses of iron, erected with as little trouble, and in as short a time as our forefathers built their huts, or the Tartars pitch their tents.

With regard to Grangemouth, a thriving village on the banks of the Forth, at the end of the canal

that joins the Forth and Clyde, it serves to shew what industry can do; and what astonishing effects a knowledge of commerce and the arts is calculated to produce. From a few scattered cottages, this, in the course of a few years, has become a populous village, where many are in the way of making princely fortunes. The canal here, which is the greatest work of the kind in Britain, was begun in the year 1750; and has already proved highly advantageous not only to the proprietors, but to the nation at large. . . . . .

The width of the canal from the Forth to the Clyde is fifty feet: its length from Dalmuir Burnfoot on the Clyde, six miles below Glasgow, thirty-five miles. The canal has been extended between these opposite sides of the Island by means of twenty locks on the east side of the country, and nineteen on the west; for the tide does not ebb so low by nine feet in the Clyde as in the Forth; where it rises and falls 160 feet. The canal being from eight to nine feet deep, is capable of carrying vessels not exceeding nine feet beam, and seventy-three feet in length, as these vessels do not draw more than eight feet water. It is carried through eighteen draw-bridges, and over fifteen aqueducts of note, besides small bridges and tunnels. At Kirkintilloch it is extended over the water of Logie on an aqueduct arch, ninety feet broad. This arch was thrown over in three stretches, by means of only one centre, or wooden frame, which was shifted on small rollers from one stretch to another: a thing never before attempted with an arch of this size. Yet the joinings are as fairly equal as any other part. It is ad-

mired as a very fine piece of masonry. The aqueduct-bridge over the Kelvin consists of four arches, and carries the canal over the valley below at the height of sixty-five feet. To supply the canal with water, there is one reservoir of fifty acres, twenty-four feet deep, and another of seventy acres, twenty-two feet deep, which receives many rivulets and springs.

A little to the southward, and nearly parallel with the canal, the Vallum of Agricola, commonly called Graham's Dyke, is extended like a fortified glen. Thus the isthmus between the Forth and the Clyde is stamped with the most characteristic features of two great nations in the zenith of their prosperity. The Carron canal bespeaks the wealth, the art, and the extended views of the commercial Britons. But the Vallum even now makes a deeper impression on sense, and marks with a bolder hand the genius of the conquering Romans.

Two miles from Carron, near the junction of the Glasgow and Stirling roads, stands the celebrated village of Camelon, once a Roman town, as appears both from History and the plainest vestiges of Roman antiquity. Roman urns are dug up in every garden and field, and stones adorned with Roman sculpture are found in the doors and windows of almost every house. The isthmus between the Forth and the Clyde naturally became the principal seat, or scene of the Roman arms and colonization in what is now called Scotland, as that between Carlisle and Newcastle was in England, before the extension of the Roman frontier to the North, and after it was again contracted from the wall of Agricola to that of Adrian.

In viewing these remains of Roman conquest and

colonization, a very strong curiosity is excited of inquiring into the state or condition of our ancestors under the Roman government. We may presume that the Britons were treated by the Romans like other conquered nations, and that in fact they were so we know from history. The best lands were no doubt seized by the conquerors; great numbers of the young men sent to Italy to recruit the Roman armies; and heavy taxes both in money and kind imposed on the people or peasantry who tended the cattle or cultivated the soil. But still we are curious to know more accurately the condition of our forefathers under the Roman prefectures, municipalities, and colonies in Britain. The tenure of lands, the occupations, manner of life, habits, notions, and general condition of the Britons remain still among the *desiderata literaria:* though it is not every day that a genius is to be found fitted for the task; for the accomplishment of which the patient industry of the antiquarian must be united with the recollections of the man of learning, and the extensive views of the philosopher.

I next went to view the house of Kinaird, where Bruce, the famous Abyssinian traveller resided. His voluminous productions, respecting the sources of the Nile, are well known. The opinion that his travels are not authentic, but that having found, he translated and palmed a Roman Catholic Missionary's journal on the public as his own, I believe to be wholly groundless. Perhaps this report may have arisen from this circumstance, that when Mr. Bruce was introduced to his Majesty, it was found that he was a very bad drawer. Indeed he could scarcely

draw at all, though the elegant drawings in his book, were given out as the productions of his pencil. At any rate Mr. Park, who has travelled through a great part of Africa already, who is now on his travels to the interior of that vast continent a second time, and with whom I have the honour to be acquainted, is of opinion that Bruce's narration is true, and says that the manners of the Abyssinians, however beastly they appear in some points of view, differ but little from some of the African tribes near Tambouchtou, that he has visited.

Mr. Park, who is only about twenty-eight or thirty years of age, has travelled through a considerable part of Africa at the expense of the African Society in London, who support his wife and family in his absence, and have settled a handsome annuity on her, in the case of his death, is extremely intelligent, as well as enterprising. He has an uncommon facility in acquiring languages; and as he shoots well, and proposes shooting with water, sand, or any thing, which is easily done by putting a little grease or tallow between the powder and the water, he has no doubt, with his gun, of being able to kill beasts or bring down fowls enough, if nothing else can be got on which to subsist, though he should for weeks or months meet with no human being in this extensive and uninhabited country, which sometimes happens. And, to prevent being attacked by beasts in the night, as they are afraid of fire more than any thing else, he proposes always kindling one, and calculating matters so that it shall not go out, while he is asleep. Under Providence he trusts solely to his gun, and is not afraid of any thing but that while

he is asleep it may be broken or stolen by the savages. Were this to happen, which he trusts will not be the case, he must return. He left London lately; and though all that have set out in the same route have either died or never been heard of, yet he is not afraid.

As Wallace Tree, at Torwood, was but a few miles distant from Kinaird House, I went to see it. This tree, now reduced to a stump, was so old and hollow even in the days of Sir William Wallace, and so large that it seems, he and twelve men could dine within it. This to some will appear incredible; but will they call the veracity of the author of Cook's Voyages in question? He assures us that, at Nootka Sound, on the western side of North America, he saw trees 60 feet in circumference, and the trunks below the branches from 50 to 60 feet high.

From Torwood I directed my course to Bannockburn, where the famous victory was gained in the year 1314, by Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, over Edward II. King of England. Upon inquiry I found that a few years ago, upon digging in the moss bordering on the Muir, the bones of a man, sitting on horseback, with his accoutrements, were found but little decayed. And this seems not improbable, since there is something in Moss that preserves bodies longer than any other known material. Some are of opinion that the logs of wood, which are even at this day found in them entire, have been in that state ever since Noah's flood.

The church of St. Ninians, which contained the rebel army's powder, &c. in the year 1745, and which was blown up, next attracted my notice.

The explosion was so vast that it was heard 20 miles all around; and glass windows at the distance of ten miles were found to shake, and many of them to be broken.

The ground on each side of the way from Edinburgh to Stirling is, in general, in a high state of cultivation: but what can induce the proprietors of Falkirk Muir, as well as many other parts both in Scotland and England, to permit such large tracts of improvable land to lie in an uncultivated state, is more than I know. Immense tracts of uncultivated land, occurring every 20 or 30 miles, is a disgrace both to the proprietors and the legislature; and, if the proprietors, and petty fewers in burghs cannot agree about the division and enclosure of lands belonging to such burgh or parish, why does not the legislature divide it for them, and bind them over either to improve or sell it?

At Stirling I rested a few days; my poney, which I had bought, being fatigued, and he and I having already become attached to one another. My first object was, to see the view from the castle, which is a nobly sublime prospect that words can scarcely express. On the north-west you see Ben Lomond raising his head sublime, and appearing as the father of the other mountains. On the east appears the beautiful windings of the Firth; the hill of Dumayat terminating the verdant Aichil hills; and the circumjacent country, as far as the eye can reach.

The castle, whose history is well known, and which has stood many sieges, not only when Scotland and England were enemies, but when the Scots were at variance with one another, seems nothing now but

a species of barracks for soldiers and invalids. It is built on a high rock sloping towards the east, but, on the west side, more than 100 feet in perpendicular height. However ludicrous it may appear, yet certain it is, that, as many who were killed here during the year 1745, were buried without coffins, so when some gentlemen were viewing the burying ground, a few days after a number of men had been buried, they found some of the dead scarcely covered, and the points of some of their noses actually peeping through the ground; which reminds us of the practice of some parishes, both in Scotland and England, that drop paupers out of the shell, or coffin, in which they are carried to the grave; thus making one coffin serve year after year in the parish. How far those church-wardens and parish officers who are thus economical, with regard to coffins, are so with regard to parish feasts, I shall not pretend to determine.

Stirling is noted for its cottons, shalloons, camblets, and other woollen goods; and so famous has it been for its tartans, that, I believe, the Prince of Wales has a dress of it, and prefers its tartans to all others.

There is no accounting for prejudices. The Chinese prefer dog's flesh to every other. The Tartars think none so good as that of horses, and some, in our own country are to be found who prefer *puppy pies* to every other. It is no uncommon thing to see dock-weed on their tables in Russia, as a salad, in preference to lettuce. The Germans eat snails, and even fatten them after they have gathered them: but what will you say to see a man growing sick at the appearance, and holding the very sight of cheese in abhor-

rence? When I saw this take place at the inn, in Stirling, and one run out when cheese appeared, and refused to come in till it was carried away, I thought it affectation, like that of the lady that generally continued half an hour picking a duck's foot, arguing that there was nothing on earth more pleasant. I thought him affected, but I found I was mistaken; and that he not only had an utter abhorrence, but often fainted at the sight of both cheese and eggs.

We are informed that there have been many battles lately, and a great revolution in China, in consequence of a change of opinion respecting religion; that the Bramins in India find it impossible to bring the Gentoos to be of the same opinion respecting the great spirit; and that there are as many different modes of worship among the Turks, and opinions respecting Mahomet, as there are provinces in the empire: but, I suppose, there are scarcely any where on the face of the earth, in an equal circle of society, a greater variety of opinions respecting religion to be found, than in this town and neighbourhood. Here are Papists, Churchmen, and Highflyers; Cameronians, Glassites, Episcopalians Independents, Whitfieldites, Burghers, Antiburghers, Unitarians, Arminians, Socinians, Universal Redemptionists, Calvinists, Haldanites, Missionaries, &c. &c. In short they dispute here, and wrangle and contend in religious matters about they know not what. The frivolity of their disputes is sometimes apparent even to the zealots themselves. An Unitarian Clergyman wished to get the stipend of a Baptist congregation. He tried to instil his doctrines into them, and they were no less zealous to

convert him. At length, they compromised matters. The Unitarian consented to be re-baptized, and the Congregationalists to acquiesce in his opinions respecting the trinity. An Anabaptist congregation here disputed for years, and took one another by the ears, because, in extremely cold weather, a lady had been baptized in water that had been a little warm. The imagination and the passions of the people often magnify trifles into matters of importance. Indeed so enthusiastic are some of them, that Mr. H——ne, a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who had an estate worth some thousands a year, sold it lately; and, excepting a trifling annuity he has settled on his wife and children, has expended the whole of the money in building churches, and establishing a new set of religious opinions: he is dubbed with the title of reverend, and attaches himself solely to the support of his party. His brother, a rich man, has also assumed the clerical character; and, in imitation of the apostles of old, they go about preaching what they call the Gospel. Indeed such is the influence of these gentlemen, that they have induced some of the established clergy to adopt their tenets.

So powerful is the contagious zeal of the missionaries, that it has made its way even into the central or inland Highlands, where little more of religion was known or cared for, than a mixture of Druidical with Christian rites or ceremonies. About 50 years ago, the Glassites, otherwise called Sandimanians, sent missionaries from Perth into Athol and Bredalbane, to propagate their doctrines; but they were only laughed at by the Highlanders, and told that they

minded none of those things, which they considered as the business only of the minister. Not so Mr. Haldane's missionaries. The minister of a certain parish in the Presbytery of Dunkeld, and all his family, have been seized with the enthusiasm of the missionaries almost to phrenzy. Not only the minister, but his wife and daughter go about the country teizing their neighbours, particularly clergymen and their families, about the state of their souls. Miss S——t, animated by the zeal of making converts, paid a visit to a neighbouring clergyman distinguished by learning, genius, and every virtue. This was the Rev. Dr. Thomas Bisset, late minister of Logie Rait. The lady had no sooner entered the manse, and been seated in the parlour, than she told the minister that she had come, "expressly to see if he was in the way to heaven:" The doctor replied, that he had kept his soul in his own charge for 69 years and a quarter, and that for the short time he might live longer, he did not intend to put it into trust. The circumstance that occasioned this anxiety about the doctor's salvation on the part of Miss S——t, was, the practical tenor of his discourses from the pulpit: of both the nature and the effects of which, very different from those of fanatical, or as it is commonly called methodistical preaching, the following anecdote, of which I am well assured, by an eye witness, is an instance. The minister had been preaching to his congregation against not only stealing, but all manner of fraud, circumvention, and roguery. A little after he had returned to the manse, a servant came and told him that Rob Roy was at the door, and wanted to speak to him. This was a noted

drover, or dealer in cattle. Robert, being called into the parlour, immediately explained the purpose of his visit to the minister, before his son and some other persons who were present, "Oh! sir, said he, you made that preachment against me. You have heard of my cheating that poor woman Widow Robertson, in buying her only cow. I took advantage of her not knowing the price, and of her being in want of money; and I got it at little more than half value, as you clearly shewed this day. What shall I do to make her amends?"—Give her back the cow said the worthy pastor, and allow her time to pay you back the money you gave her.—Would that, reverend sir, make up for my cheatry, and save me from all the punishment on this account that you was preaching about?—I dare say it might.—Then, sir, to make sure work, I will give back the cow without the price, and keep from such tricks hereafter.

This resolution he actually performed. But a sermon which impelled a rogue to abandon the fruits of his fraud would have been abhorred by Miss S—t as legal, and not evangelical preaching. The worst, and certainly great evil in the doctrines of the fanatics, is, that they tend to separate religion from morality, and to make it consist wholly in certain mysterious emotions and metaphysical notions, which they call acts of faith. The Christian religion is indeed founded on FAITH: not a faith of metaphysical abstractions; but a faith bearing the fruit of good works—of piety towards God, and good will and love towards men.

Zeal in a good cause is calculated to do much good; but zeal without knowledge, though God

may accept of it, has done in former times, and is still calculated to do, much mischief. The zeal of John Knox, in the days of Mary Queen of Scots, was warm and well meant, but it being directed, not against the clergy only, but against the walls of the churches, which certainly were not culpable, shews that it was partly without knowledge. Indeed he at length found that his great zeal had carried him too far, and that many of the barons and other landholders had joined in the reformation, not from religious motives, as he had imagined, but for the sake of the church lands, which they saw would fall to them, if the reformation should be brought about.

It is true, some of the strolling preachers have strong natural parts, and cannot be styled immoral men; but then their enthusiasm certainly carries them too far, when, like the famous Ralph Erskine, they assert that God made the world only to shew what he could do; that it is nothing but a scaffold for erecting the edifice of grace; and that the scaffold will be knocked down and burnt up when the edifice is complete. There is no impropriety in preachers telling their people, in the language of Job, that conscience is the candle of the Lord within us: but what shall we say of their arguing as they do, and express it, that this candle must be often snuffed?

A petty practitioner of the law in Stirling, whether tinctured with the doctrines of the Haldanites, or with any religious doctrines at all, I am uncertain, being proprietor of an estate in a neighbouring parish, sent his proportion of the stipend to the clergyman by the hands of the hangman. When the

hangman, who, here, as well as in most other places, is neither a respectable, nor a popular character, and who is seldom seen without the walls of the town where he resides, was approaching the minister's house, the servants, and all in the house, were much alarmed, except the clergyman; and when the hangman knocked at the door, it was like the sentence of death. As every body had run with fear and trembling to hide themselves, no one could be found to let him in. However, he was at last admitted. Upon being desired by the clergyman, Mr. Farmer, of Alloa, to come in, he informed him he had been sent by Mr. J. C—l with his proportion of the stipend. Finding the money good and the sum due, being asked a receipt, Mr. Farmer wrote, "Received from Mr. C—, through the hands of his agent and factor, the hangman of Stirling, the sum of thirty pounds sterling, &c." But it seems, that the year after, the gentleman judged it unnecessary to remit his money by his former agent.

It is no wonder that Stirling makes so great a figure as it does in the history of Scotland. There was not, perhaps, another spot of so much importance as a military station, so convenient as the seat of government, and at the same time so delightful and inviting a residence for the court.

Stirling was a military station in the time of the Romans. From this place the vestiges of a Roman road are traced, in the plainest manner, all the way to the river Eske, in Dumfriesshire, which, falling into the Solway Firth, forms part of the boundary between Scotland and England. The grand consular road was carried from Stirling through Ardoch

Strathgeth, across both the Erne and the Tay, through Strathmore, as far as the end of the South Grampians, and even into the low lands of Aberdeenshire. For the whole extent of this great consular road there were numerous camps, præsidia, and castella, from which vicinal or cróss roads diverged to other military stations. The Romans undoubtedly occupied the gorges or great passes into the Grampians from Dunbarton to Stonehaven.

As we find the plainest vestiges of a Roman town at Camelon, in the vicinity of Stirling, on the one side, so at Ardoch, in the vicinity of Stirling, on the other, we find the most entire Roman camp in Britain. It is supposed to have been a constant station, summer and winter, *castra stativa*, during the seven campaigns made in Caledonia by Agricola. But there are not here any such vestiges of a town as at Camelon. Among the military prerogatives of Stirling, it may be mentioned that it was at Bannockburn, near this place, that the grand and decisive battle was fought which completed, in 1314, the recovery of Scotland from the arms of England. Numberless other battles were fought near this great pass, from the southern to the northern parts of Scotland; which northern parts formed the antient Caledonia, as might well be imagined, if it did not so clearly appear from written records and from tradition: from the times when Fingal contended, on the banks of the Carron, with the *King of the World*, to the battle of Sheriffmuir, where the progress of the rebel army, under the Earl of Mar, received a check from the forces of George I. commanded by John, Duke of Argyle.

The famous Mr. Fletcher, of Saltoun, says, that the city of London is like the head of a ricketty child, which, by drawing to itself the nourishment that should be distributed in due proportions to the rest of the languishing body, becomes so overcharged, that frenzy and death unavoidably ensue; that the number of the British people, and their riches, would be far greater in twelve cities than in one; and that if these cities were such as are situated at convenient distances from one another, the relief they would bring to every part of these kingdoms would be unspeakable. So many different seats of government would encourage virtue, and highly tend to the improvement of all arts and sciences, and afford great variety of entertainment to all foreigners and others of a curious and inquisitive genius. Of these twelve *cities*, he would allow six to England, four to Ireland, and two to Scotland. The six for England might be London, Bristol, Exeter, Chester, Norwich, and York; the four for Ireland, Dublin, Cork, Galloway, and Londonderry; the two for Scotland, Stirling, and Inverness. Whether some other places more conveniently situated for strength, and more capable of fortification, might not rather be of the number, he would not determine; but in this easy division of territory he thinks it indispensably necessary that to every city all the adjacent country should belong. *

Whatever may be thought of Mr. Fletcher's distribution of the territory of England and Ireland, certainly two seats of government for Scotland could

* Political Works of Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun, p. 318.

not be fixed on more proper than Stirling and Inverness: of which we may say, in the language of mathematicians, that they are similar and similarly situated.

The situation and natural advantages or prerogatives of Stirling are so well described by a preceding traveller, that I cannot do better, nor so well on that subject, as to quote the words of that observant and intelligent writer.

"As the Scottish nation extended their authority southwards, by their conquests over the Picts and Danes, and by their intermarriages with England, the usual places of their residence became more and more southerly also. Dunstaffanage was exchanged for Scone, Scone for Dunfermline and Falkland, Dunfermline and Falkland for Stirling, Stirling for Linlithgow and Edinburgh, and at last Edinburgh for London. Amidst these changes, after the establishment of the monarchy of all Scotland, the natural boundaries which marked the land confined on the whole the choice of a place of residence for the royal family to that space which is bounded by the courses of the Forth and the Tay on the south and the north, on the west by the rising of the country towards the middle of the island, and on the east by the ocean. The interposition of the Tay recommended Scone as a proper place of residence in the hottest times of war with the English. But after an alliance had been formed between the royal families of the two kingdoms, by the marriage of Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. King of England, and James V. King of Scotland, after hostilities between the two nations were inter-

rupted by long intervals, and the genius of both began to tend to peace and conciliation, there was not a spot in the whole extent of Scotland that so naturally invited the residence of the king and court as Stirling. It is still more central to Scotland than Scone; and the sanctity of a monastery was not ill exchanged for the strength of a fortress.

"From the lofty battlements of Stirling Castle the royal eye surveyed the bold outlines of an unconquered kingdom. The Grampians, the Ochills, and the Pentland Hills, conveyed a just idea of its natural strength. The whole course of the Forth, with his tributary rivers, from their source in the Highlands near Loch Lomond, winding through part of Perthshire, and washing the shores of Clackmannan and Fife on the north, and those of Stirlingshire, Linlithgow, and the Lothians, on the south, exhibited a pleasing prospect of its natural resources in fishing, and in a soil which, though in a rude climate, would not be ungrateful to the hand of cultivation.

"From this point of view also the imagination of a Scotchman is led by many remembrances to recal to mind the most important vicissitudes and scenes of action in the history of his country. The whole extent of Strathmore, from Stirling to Stonehaven, is full of Roman camps and military ways; and the wall of Agricola, a little to the south of Stirling, extends between the Forth and the Clyde. Bannockburn and Cambuskenneth, almost overhung by the castle, remind the spectator of a fortunate, and Pinkie, seen at the distance of forty miles, excites a fainter idea of an unfortunate engagement with

the English. The hill of Largo, in Fife, calls to mind the Danish invasions; and the Forth itself was for ages the well-contested boundary between the Scots and their southern neighbours."

In this masterly sketch of the southward progression of the royal authority and palaces of Scotland, it will probably be remarked, by those minutely acquainted with the Scottish history, that this English gentleman made too great a leap when he passed at once from Dunstaffanage to Scone, without taking notice of Inverlochy, Kildrummy, and one or two more royal residences. Inverlochy Castle is situated in the deep vale formed by high mountains between Fort William and Inverness. There is a tradition that this castle was once a royal residence, and that the famous league between Charlemagne and Achaius, King of Scots, was signed there, on the part of the Scottish Monarch, A. D. 790. It was at one period occupied by the Thanes of Lochaber, and among others by BANCHO, predecessor of the race of Stuarts. Kildrummy, situated on the course of the Don, in Aberdeenshire, was once a palace of the great King Robert Bruce.

A. Grant delt. Heath Sculpt.

View on the Forth near Stirling.

FROM STIRLING TO DUMFERMELING.

BEING not far from Sheriffmuir already mentioned, I felt a strong desire to visit it and Dumblane, in its neighbourhood, once the seat of a bishop; but, except an insignificant village, with few manufacturers, and as few marks of its former grandeur, and the appearance of the graves where the men, who fell in the battle, were buried, I saw nothing worth notice; therefore, returning almost to Stirling Bridge, and then eastward, I made the best of my way through the Carse of Clackmannah, along the north bank of the Forth, to view the woods and pleasure grounds about Alloa House, laid out by the Earl of Mar just mentioned. The trees, chiefly oak, fir and other pines, beech, hornbeam, and elms, are among the first planted in Scotland, and among the noblest of the kind at this day.

In my way through the Carse of Clackmannan, particularly about Tillibody, the birth-place and property of the late Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who fell fighting the battles of his country on the banks of the Nile, I could not help admiring the beauty and verdure of the country, the richness of the soil, the neatness of the fences, and the evident skill and taste of the farmers. Indeed, few places seem better cultivated, or more capable of cultivation, than the straths on the banks of the Forth.

The water here, as well as in most other low-lying places, is often muddy, and the people apt, though not so much as formerly, to be attacked with agues,

or intermitting fevers. I was surprised that they had not adopted the method of purifying the water they use through filtering stones, which are now common, and may be had at an easy rate.

The people here, as in some other parts of the world, imagine that briars and thorns, being the effect of the fall of man, are sent as a curse, though they find them so useful in this their fallen state, not only in restraining the inferior animals from wandering beyond their bounds, but also in preventing men from encroaching on one another's property. Perhaps there is nothing here on earth but what is, or may be, useful to man. The fox, it is true, preys on our poultry, and otherwise injures our property; but they who argue that he is of no use forget that matters would be worse without him; that, if it were not for him, the earth would be overrun with polecats, ferrets, land and water rats, mice, &c. &c. That the lion, the bear, the tyger, the leopard, and the like, which indeed, at first sight, one would think sent as curses, are certainly ordained by providence for the wisest of purposes; to assist in keeping under the numerous tribes of animals that would otherwise plague us. The eagle, the hawk, the vulture, &c. sometimes carry off our lambs, chickens, and otherwise injure us; but, in return, they rid us of thousands of rats, mice, frogs, &c. &c. that would annoy us; and if it happen that any of these are saved from the claws of the kite, the hawk, the eagle, &c. by day, the owl makes her appearance in the evening to pick up and destroy what, during the day, has escaped. Sparrows, and many other little birds, no doubt eat our grain and spoil our fruit,

but then in return they pick up and destroy millions of millions of insects, and the ova of little animals that would distress us. The thrush, the blackbird, the starling, and the like, spoil our fruit; but as they ask none of our money, they are entitled to what they take, for their repeated morning and evening song.

As I was riding along, admiring the beautiful scene around, a genteel young man with a servant overtook me. Being well acquainted with this part of the country, he told me, that the whole Aichil Hills, on our left, which stretch from the Frith of Tay to Stirling, were once covered with oak; that the word Aichil means woody hills; that at Menstrie, near Stirling, there is a dell, or hollow, three hundred feet deep, generally filled with snow, which, though exposed to the south, is often not all consumed when the summer is ended.

Upon inquiry at the inn at Alloa, I found the person who accompanied me thither to be Mr. B—r, a young gentleman of considerable property near St. Andrews, in Fife; that some years ago, having been on a jaunt to see Edinburgh, Carron Works, &c. &c. as he was riding between Stirling and Alloa, a fine young healthy woman on horseback, who had been at Stirling, came galloping up, intending to pass him; but that when her horse came exactly opposite to his, notwithstanding repeated attempts on her part, and the servant attending her, her horse would not go *one inch* past this gentleman's. This naturally brought on a conversation, and they travelled some miles together. At last, where two roads separate, her horse suddenly galloped off the great

road, she saying, farewell. This gave the young gentleman scarcely any uneasiness, and he and his servant rode on. But when they reached Alloa, where he remained all night, he became extremely uneasy, and almost distracted that he did not ask her address. After a sleepless night, and chiding his servant for not asking the lad that attended her where they resided, instead of proceeding on his way to Fife, he returned the way of Stirling, making inquiry every where about the young woman he had seen, towards whom he felt a sympathetic attraction, for which he could not account. Having hunted about for two days, like one out of his senses, in quest of her, he at length discovered the place of her abode, which was at her father's, a farmer in the Carse of Clackmannan. If pleased with her conversation when on horseback, now that he saw her in a neat, plain, clean, country dress, he became violently in love, and, after satisfying her what he was, he proposed to marry her. Notwithstanding that he was young, rich, and handsome, yet she would not comply. Having returned to his house, and staid a few days, finding no peace, he set out again to try his fortune with his fair acquaintance, in whom he saw every day new beauties. Several journies of this kind being made, he at last gained her affection: and now having been married for years, they have fine children, and are one of the happiest couples in the world.

I was amazed to see the credulity of many in this part of the country, notwithstanding that the belief of the existence of ghosts, fairies, hobgoblins, and the like, is fast decreasing. I am led to

this remark from a conversation I had with Mr. R— H—, at the new inn at Alloa, a well-bred and seemingly well-informed man. The conversation turning, in the evening, on witches, I said, there may have been young, but I did not believe there ever was or ever will be old ones; that young women have often bewitched young men, but that old women, in consequence of an agreement with the devil, could waste a man by enchantment, ride through the air on a broomstick, and swim the sea in an egg-shell, was what I could not believe. He heard me, but being of a different opinion, quoted one of the parish-books in the neighbourhood, to shew that the devil can influence not only the dead but also the living.

In the parish books of St. Ninian's, the minister and elders declare, that, on the 24th day of January, in the year 1668, as a respectable farmer was standing at his door, about eight in the evening, he saw a woman coming to him with her hair floating in the wind, which blew in her face; that as he thought he knew her, and she passed near him, he reached out his hand to try to persuade her to come to him. His hand somehow got hold of her hair, which adhered to it. Being rather in liquor, he went in to some companions, but recollected nothing of what happened till next morning that his wife was rising; but that he did not tell her, lest he should only have dreamed it. However, when she was gone, having reached from his bed to his pocket, where he recollected he put the hair, he found it with a considerable part of a human scalp attached to it. Amazed and astonished, and

scarcely knowing what to do, he arose, went to the parson of the parish, told him every circumstance, and shewed him the hair with the scalp. The parson, the elders, &c. of the parish, being assembled to consider of this mysterious affair, agreed that the devil must have had power over some dead body; and imagining it might be a woman of a suspicious character that had died lately, they went to the grave, and opening it, found the woman's body with some of her hair and scalp gone; and when they applied the scalp in the man's pocket, it exactly corresponded with what was wanting in her's. I smiled at this quotation, saying, that either there could be no such story in the books, or that it had been foisted in, when people, believing, amused themselves with such nonsense, and that none but men of warm imagination could believe it.—There is a story of an apparition as well authenticated in Dean Sherlock's Book on Death.

Alloa, which is a large and thriving village, has a considerable manufactory of glass, cottons, and woollen stuffs, and exports a good many coals. Though not a burgh, being populous and central, it is the place where the courts are held belonging to the county of Clackmannan, which, being but small, with Kinross, (in the same way as Cromarty with Nairn, and Bute with Caithness), sends a member to parliament alternately. Between Stirling and Alloa the Forth winds in so singular as well as beautiful a manner, that though it is but four miles between these two places by land, it is twenty-four by water.

About Alloa House, belonging to Erskine of

Mar, the extensive woods and pleasure grounds planted and laid out by the Earl of Mar, before the rebellion in 1715, seem nearly to agree with the plan of laying out pleasure grounds at the present day. When this extensive house was burnt, which unfortunately happened a few years ago, the tower of Alloa, which is contiguous, was saved by the door communicating with the house being built up with *wet turf*, in which, among a vast number of valuable articles, there is a painting of Mary, Queen of Scots, thought to be one of the best in existence.

I went next to view the castle of Clackmannan, built by Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, about the time of the famous battle of Bannockburn. I have seen the views from Edinburgh, Stirling, and Windsor Castles, as also from some of the highest hills in Scotland, England, and Wales; but, in my opinion, the view from the castle of Clackmannan is not inferior to any of them, from its relative situation in a low country; and yet its top being about one thousand feet above the level of the sea. If you look westward, you see Alloa, Stirling, the windings of the Forth, Ben Lomond, &c. and all around that way, almost as far as Glasgow. If you look southward and eastward, you see beautiful rising grounds in the form of a semicircle near thirty miles, including Airth, Grangemouth, the Canal, Dunipace, Falkirk, Carron Works, the shipping and towns, &c. &c. on each side of the Forth, as far as the eye can reach.

Having seen the golden plate given by George I. to Lord Lovat, who was afterwards beheaded, and which cost more than one thousand guineas, the great golden

font at Gordon Castle, that holds the water when any of the family are baptized, and the vast variety of gold and silver plate at Alloa House, and many other great houses in this part of the country, I was led to doubt whether, notwithstanding the immense quantities of gold and silver dug yearly out of the mines of Peru and Mexico, there be more gold and silver in the world now than there was in the times of the antient Greeks and Romans. From the account given in the Old Testament, gold and silver must have been extremely plenty in the days of Solomon. The antients had more statues of their gods in their houses and temples than are to be found of saints and angels in Roman Catholic countries, or among the idolaters of the east. Alexander the Great, we are told, had a seat of solid silver, covered with crimson, for each of four hundred commanders, when he entertained them. Lysimachus, of Babylon, having entertained the tyrant of the Babylonians with three hundred guests, gave every man a cup of gold of four pounds weight; and when Alexander the Great made his marriage feast at Susa, in Persia, he paid the debts of all his soldiers out of his own treasures, and presented every one of his guests, who were nine thousand in number, with a golden cup.

The Romans received yearly large quantities of silver, and if I mistake not, gold and silver also from Old Spain; so that, notwithstanding the gold and silver dug yearly out of the mines of Peru and Mexico, and collected from other parts, perhaps there was, two thousand years ago, as much gold and silver in circulation and in plate, as at present.

But, on this point, to descend from antient to later times: the quantity of gold plate in the possession of great families in Britain in the fourteenth century, may be conjectured from the equipage of the Lord James Douglas, when he set out from his own county of Angus, on an expedition, the object of which shall by and by be related. "Early in the spring of 1327, the Lord James Douglas having made provision of every thing that was proper for his expedition, embarked at the port of Montrose, and sailed directly for Sluys, in Flanders, in order to learn if any one were going beyond sea to Jerusalem, that he might join companies. He remained there twelve days, and would not set his foot on shore, but staid the whole time on board, where he kept a magnificent table with music of trumpets and drums, as if he had been the king of Scotland. His company consisted of one knight-banneret, and seven others of the most valiant knights of Scotland, without counting the rest of his household. His plate was of gold and silver, consisting of pots, basins, porrigers, cups, bottles, barrels, and other such things. He had likewise twenty-six young and gallant esquires of the best families of Scotland to wait on him; and all those who came to visit him were handsomely served with two sorts of wine and two sorts of spices, I mean those of a certain rank."*

It may seem matter of wonder from whence so much gold and silver flowed in such considerable quantities into a country naturally so poor as Scotland, and in so remote a period. That a very considerable degree of wealth, civilization, and taste in

* Froissart's Chronicle, translated by J. Johnes, vol. i. p. 74.

the arts, had made its way to Scotland at this period, will not be called in question by any one who casts his eye on even the ruins of the edifices constructed about or before that time; the quantities of wheat and other grain furnished yearly to the monasteries; and the very vestiges of cultivation presented every where on the eastern side of both Scotland and the northern counties of England, in vast tracts of land formed into ridges, though now overrun with furze and heath. That side of the country was, for a long tract of years, under the dominion of the Picts, or Peights, called also Vichts, Wicks, or Wiggans, who, in comparison of the Celts, or Irish Scots, inhabiting the inland, mountainous, and western coasts, were a refined and polished people. The Pictish empire, if I may be allowed to use this magnificent term, in Scotland, was divided into two dominions, that of the Picts to the south of the Grampians, and that of the Picts extending from the river Dee over the lowlands of Aberdeenshire, Bamff, Murray, Inverness, Sutherlandshire, Caithness, and the Orkney and Shetland Isles. Both the northern and southern Picts sprung from Scandinavia, more particularly Norway.

The term of Picts, Peights (the name by which they are called among the people of Scotland, who have a world of traditions concerning them at this day), Vichts, Wicks, and Wiggans, all literally signify PIRATES, or ROBBERS. When the king or chief of any northern and maritime nation and tribe was desirous of making provision for any spirited youth among his sons, he furnished him with a number of ships and brave followers, and committed him to the

ocean, and his own valour and fortune. From situation, the people of those countries were fishermen and navigators. The sea was their natural element, to which they looked for subsistence and bettering their condition, more than to the land. They made reciprocal incursions, not only into each-other's borders, but in process of time, and of courage inspired by successful adventure, into Scotland, England, Belgium, and the shores of Aquitaine. Passing up the Rhine, the Garonne, and other rivers in Germany and Gaul, they planted colonies in all these regions: in Scotland, under their Wicks, or Wiggans; in Ireland and Aquitaine, under their Thagens, or Thanes; and, finally, after various pedatory irruptions, even into Italy, and under the names of Cimbri, Teutones, Goths, Huns, and Vandals, they overturned and totally annihilated the Western Roman Empire.

Though the arts and sciences spring up and flourish in mild or genial more early than in bad climates, and that we are accustomed to consider the Mediterranean as the natural cradle of navigation in Europe, yet that of navigation seems in some measure to be an exception from the general law. It occurs, and is obtruded, on the most savage nations on the sea-shores and the sides of rivers, who quickly, and almost by instinct, learn to bestride logs of wood; and also by means of these to float divers articles for use or for barter from one spot to another. The origin of navigation may, therefore, be supposed to be just as early in rude as in genial climates—in those countries which are situated, and pour their rivers into the great northern ocean, as

early as in the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Persia: while the superior difficulties with which the people of those countries have to contend, lead them by the hand to superior improvements in the construction of ships, and greater hardihood and adventure in the art of navigation. The ships of the Veneti, a nation of Gaul on the British Channel, as we learn from Cæsar, far exceeded those of the Romans in point of both strength snd size. Still larger and stronger, it is reasonable to presume, were the ships of the people inhabiting the coasts of Norway and Denmark, the shores of the Baltic, and the Saxon shores. It was, in fact, the naval power and habits of the northern nations, particularly those situated on the Saxon shores, the Rhine, and the Danube, which, by means of water carriage, systematized and consolidated the attacks of the northern hordes on the Roman empire in the west, and finally crowned the barbarous work with deplorable success.

The Celts, it is supposed, originated, as well as the Goths and Vandals, from the antient Scythia, though at an earlier period; but in the lapse of time, and change of circumstances and situations, a very material difference took place between the Gothic and the Celtic nations. Both retained the warlike spirit. But the Goths made war with more extensive views, and on a greater scale. The Gauls mingled a turn for war with pastoral occupations; the Goths with naval. The Goths, capable of regular industry, advanced considerably in a knowledge of agriculture and the mechanical arts: the Celts, light, fickle, and impatient of labour, were

greatly behind the Goths in these respects. The inability and sloth of the antient Gauls was proverbial even among the Germans. The inhabitants of Wales, Ireland, and the islands and highlands of Scotland, are all of Celtic origin. Identity of government has, no doubt, amalgamated all these in our day, in some measure into one people, and will certainly continue to do so more and more. But certain it is, that in that part of Scotland, which was possessed by the Picts, there was much greater adventure, as well as industry and improvement, than in those under the dominion of the Celts: and both from industry and adventure the lowland Scots, who were chiefly of Pictish descent, derived no inconsiderable share of consideration and of riches. The same manners and habits that prevailed in Norway and Denmark prevailed long on the eastern coast of Scotland, from the Orkneys to Northumberland, over which the sway of the Danes was extended for many centuries. Young men engaged as soldiers of fortune in the armies of the Greek emperors, the emperor of Germany, and kings of France and Spain; and others exercised the vocation of pirates. The gold and silver they brought to their dear, though poor, *natale solum* remained long in their retive families, in an age when luxury had made but little progress, and when it was the greatest pride of men to be surrounded by great numbers of dependents, who were retained, not by wages or pecuniary compensations, but by the produce of the land and water, dispensed with a rude but frank hospitality at the halls of the chieftains. But the Lowland, or Pictish Scots, were not soldiers

of fortune and pirates only: they were, like their ancestors, fishers as well as navigators; and, while some pursued the business of arms at land or at sea, others followed that of fishing and agriculture. So early as the year 836, the Netherlanders resorted to the Scottish coasts to purchase salted fish of the natives. It was here that they first learned that art, and took up that trade which has since proved of such immense consequence to the Dutch. On the whole, the inhabitants of the eastern and lower parts of Scotland drew some portion of wealth into their country by means both of that industry and those roving habits, both of which they derived from their Scandinavian ancestors. Britain was, in those days, to Norway, and the nations on the Baltic, very much the same that North America has been, and is, in our times, to Britain. The Danes acquired possession of the eastern side, and other parts of our island, and retained them for centuries. In the process of time, they were either driven back to their own shores, or mingled with the people of Britain, leaving behind them, as memorials of their connection, much of their language, their arts, and their manners. The sovereignty of the northern counties of Scotland the Danes contested with the Scottish kings long after their discomfiture in the midland and southern parts; and as to the Shetland and Orkney Isles, they were not annexed to the crown of Scotland till the reign of James III. who received them as a marriage portion with a daughter of the king of Denmark.

If we thus reflect on the history, genius, character, and habits of the Scandinavian tribes and na-

tions so widely diffused and incorporated with those of the Lowland Scots, we shall not be inclined to consider the accounts we have of the wealth of Douglas, or of other Scottish chiefs in the fourteenth century, as altogether, if at all, incredible. The splendour in which Lord James Douglas lived will not appear very improbable, when we call to mind the magnificence of the castle of *Tarnaway*, the antient residence of the earls of Murray, to whom it still belongs. This castle, famous for its spacious hall, was built by the earl Randolph, a cotemporary of lord James Douglas's, and, like him, one of the great supporters of Robert Bruce. It is timbered at top like Westminster-Hall: in magnificence and splendour it might have vied with any seat of royalty.

The plate belonging to the academy at Douay, in France, which was some years ago buried, and perhaps will never be dug up, is said to be immense. Much gold and silver, both in France, Germany, and Italy, has been buried by timorous and covetous people of late, which, owing to those which hid it having fallen in battle, or been driven from their homes, will probably never be found. There is no other way of accounting for this supposed diminution, instead of increase of gold and silver at the present day, than its having been hid in times of civil discord.

As there are strata of coal of various depths all over this part of the country, and numerous coal pits, I went down into one of them. The seams of coal run below the bed of the Forth, and extend from the Aichil Hills to Falkirk Muir, where the rebels gained a victory

over the king's troops in 1745, a distance of at least twenty miles. Perhaps these seams extend an hundred miles all around, though in some places their dip is found too far below the surface of the earth to be wrought to advantage.

It has been a query, which I believe is not yet decided, whether coal was placed in the earth by the hands of the Deity, when he made the world; or if the various strata, at various distances from the surface, be only burnt wood pressed together by the immense weights that have been thrown upon them by the eruptions of nature, and the changes that have taken place on the face of the earth. At any rate, burnt wood, when pressed together for a number of years, assumes the appearance of pit-coal; and I have been informed, that if you take a log of wood, burn it to charcoal, and then put weights upon it, and suffer it to continue in that state for years, it becomes impossible for an experienced collier to distinguish pit-coal from this charcoal, having been for years condensed and pressed together. Indeed, the works of God are in many places unfathomable. If immense forests, such as the Hyrcinian, in Germany, were to be burnt, which has often happened both in ancient and modern times, and any great concussion of nature to lay the ashes of these fifty or sixty fathoms below the surface of the earth, we have reason to conclude, that in the course of ages the ashes of such forests would become a seam of coal, such as we find here and in various parts of the world at this day. When in this coal mine, I observed an uncommon echo, and that this echo varied as we varied our position;

which may partly be the reason why colliers have in general a peculiar tone of voice.

Not far from the spot where I ascended from the coal mine, I saw a large wheel perpetually going, which was employed in raising water from the mines. The above wheel I found, upon inspection, to be about twenty feet diameter, supported by strong beams erected near a building that has the appearance of a small tower about forty feet high; in the inside of which small tower there runs, through pumps, a stream of water to a cistern on the top, being conveyed hither below ground from an elevation about a mile distant: which water, being carried by a spout projecting from the top of the tower over the wheel, and falling upon it, drives it, and has done so for many years past, without any person attending it. This *perpetuum mobile*, if I may use the expression, puts in motion a set of pumps one above another in the pit, which is a hundred fathom deep, each pump being about thirty feet long, conveying the water from one to another from the bottom to the surface. Here it joins the water that had contributed its part to drive the wheel, and they both run off into the Firth; and in this manner all the coal mines in the neighbourhood are drained. Where water can be conveyed from an elevation, this is a much cheaper way of draining mines or driving machinery than by steam engines, which, beside consuming a great quantity of coal, requires almost constant attendance.

It is known to the moderns, that water will rise to its level, or head of the spring, however far conveyed under ground. This was not known to the

antients. When the Greeks and Romans wished to convey water over a hollow, not knowing that it would rise as far it fell, they built arches over the hollow, in order to make the water run nearly upon a level. When the Romans had possession of Portugal, and wished to bring water into Lisbon from a distance, as there was a large deep hollow between the city and the fountain head, they raised a path, like a bridge, for the water to run into the city, not knowing that it might be carried below ground for any number of miles, and either rise perpendicularly, as it does here, or gradually to the same height from whence it fell. There are monuments of this aqueduct at Lisbon to this day; as also of the Claudian waters, which were conveyed above ground from a considerable distance into Rome over a dell or hollow.

When I beheld the light of the sun, after having been so long under ground, I could not help admiring the wisdom of Providence in making man in general ready to accommodate himself to every situation. It is well known, that though slavery is abolished in Britain, yet there is a relic of it in this and many of the other collieries in Scotland. The peasants in Russia, Prussia, Poland, Denmark, &c. are in general *adscripti Glebæ*, and are sold along with the estates on which they reside; and as they cannot remove to any other estate or country without leave from their old, so they cannot without the leave of their new master. This is partly the case with the colliers and salters of some parts of Scotland; for, as the parents bind over their children for a small gratuity, soon after they are born, to

the proprietors of the coal works, and these proprietors become bound to furnish a house and garden, work and tools for these children when grown up, so they become bound, and cannot remove from the colliery without the proprietor's leave. How far this agreement is legal or binding on the children I know not, but slavery in one shape or other has existed in all ages, even in the most primitive and simple times. It was allowed, the favourers of slavery tell us, by the law of Moses, where there is an evident difference put between the life of a slave and the life of a brother. The republics of Athens and Sparta established slavery by a law, and the emperor Adrian is said to have been the first among the Romans who put it out of the power of the master to put a slave to death. We know that Alfred the Great, who lived in the tenth century, was the first who put it out of the power of parents in England to sell their children.

Previously to that period, they tell us, parents argued thus: "Our children are our own. Their flesh, blood, &c. has been produced by the food we have given them. Since, therefore, we begat them, and all that they are has come through us, now that we are in want, we, as they cannot work for our support, have a right to sell them to those that will support us, or add to our comfort. In one point of view, they say, the idea of slavery is not so unnatural. If in the field of battle a man tries to kill me, upon my overcoming him, I acquire, as it were, a right over him. If, therefore, he begs for mercy, and I choose to spare his life, that life, as it were, becomes my property."

The gradual abolition of slavery in Europe, it is

but justice to acknowledge, has been owing to the influence of Christianity, and particularly of the catholic religion. The popes encouraged the emancipation of slaves, by various indemnifications of a spiritual nature.

Whilst at Clackmannan, I went one day into the church-yard to amuse myself with the inscriptions on the tomb-stones. Though this town contains not above five hundred inhabitants; yet, as the parish is large, and some of the parishioners rich, I observed some curiously-carved monuments with flattering inscriptions. Among the Egyptians, there was a law, that none could be praised after his death, unless his character had been approved. When, therefore, any person died, his body was taken before the public judge. If it was found that the deceased had lived soberly and virtuously, had avoided crimes, and done good, his friends were at liberty to put on his tomb what they pleased; but, if he was found to have acted improperly, they were not allowed to say any thing in his favour, nay, it was death to do so. How far the dead here deserved all the fine things said of them, I know not.

Upon seeing in the corner of the church-yard a stone of peculiar construction, I went to see it, but I found the inscription almost totally effaced. Upon decyphering it I was both shocked and pleased; shocked at the cruelty of our forefathers, and pleased at the thought that we live in happier times. The poor man interred here, whose initials are C—G— it seems, went one day to the castle, asking charity. He was desired by the haughty lord, who inhabited it, and who happened to be looking over one of the windows, to go to hell.

To this the poor man replied, I need not go there, I am just come from it. And pray what is going on there? Why, my lord, they are playing the same game there as here, taking in the rich, and holding out the poor. For this, no doubt, saucy reply, the man was immediately seized; and a roasted egg being put under each arm-pit, and his arms tied down, he was tormented till he died.

The tradition is, that this monumental stone was not erected till many years after the death of the tyrant of Clackmannan; which is indeed almost certain: otherwise there would have probably been a farther application of roasted eggs.

One day I went to see Sir John de Graham's sword, which is kept at the head inn here, as a curiosity. It has, no doubt, the appearance of a sword, but is so long, thick, and heavy, that I am apt to think, strong as Sir John, no doubt, was, this would have been an unwieldy weapon even in his hands. It is absurd to argue as they do here, that, though this sword be unwieldy to men at the present day, it might not have been so in the days of Sir John, when men were much stronger than they are now. Men are, have been, and always will be *nearly* the same. The statue of Cicero, at Oxford, which I have seen, and which was made near two thousand years ago, is not bigger than an ordinary man at present. The famous Venus de Medicis, thought to be the finest statue in the world, and which was made by Praxiteles about four hundred years before the birth of our Saviour, is not more than five feet three inches high, in a bending posture, or what is termed the attitude of modesty, and which

is the common stature of women at this day. And the statues of the kings and queens of England, preserved in the Tower of London, from William the Conqueror to George I. a range of near eight hundred years, are all nearly the size of our present most gracious sovereign George III. who does not appear to be six feet high.

Tillicoultry, a parish in this neighbourhood, I found, had been rather unfortunate in its clergymen. One of these having lived much respected among his parishioners for fifteen years, lost his living for having been too familiar with his maid servant. The parishioners and people around often advised his successor to marry, lest HE, TOO, should fall into temptation, but he would not. However, notwithstanding the fate of his predecessor, he also was obliged to give up his living; his maid servant either having been seduced by him, or been the seducer.

In the county of Clackmannan, I found as good level roads as any in the kingdom. Indeed, the gentlemen, in this part of the county, deserve much praise for their attention in this particular. In England, as well as Scotland, the roads are often turned round for miles to accommodate some great man, and not interfere with his park and pleasure-grounds; thus sacrificing the ease and conveniency, not only of the present, but of future generations. For instance, at the Duke of Marlborough's Park, Oxfordshire, the Duke of Portland's, and the Duke of Gordon's, Bamfshire. There, no doubt, must be different ranks in society, and every attention is due to the great and the good; but how far they ought to ask such a favour, and it is prudent for

thousands, in compliance with their request, day after day, and year after year, to go miles about, when a nearer and more direct line road lies through a great man's parks, I leave others to judge.

The roads in this county are in the very best line of direction. What would the gentlemen of Clackmannanshire say to a shamefully circuitous road on the very verge of London? and that not for even so desirable an end as the preservation of parks and pleasure-grounds, or the gratification of any man living. At Chelsea, within a mile of the Queen's Palace, in order not to disturb the ashes of Sir Hans Sloane, who was buried, I believe, near a century ago, the high road is turned a great way, and thousands daily are obliged to go out of their course, not to disturb the ashes of this philosopher. As there is nothing grand, nor very elegant about this monument; and as his ashes are in a lead coffin, would it not be doing a proper, as well as a good action to remove them to some other place? Nay, if Sir Hans, who was a good man, were living, and saw so many thousands every day obliged to go so far about, it being the business of a philosopher to do all the possible good he can to others, would he not be sorry to see his neighbours day after day taking so much trouble without doing even one particle of good to him? It is shameful, it is unfeeling, in a great man, because he has a few deer and dogs he is fond of, to sit like an Indian nabob, or a Spanish don, and see, day after day, and year after year, thousands go miles about, that he and his pampered domestics may not be disturbed.

In new modelling the roads of a county, like every

thing else, the interest of the public, not of individuals, should preponderate; and commissioners of supply should not, though it is often the case, for the sake of a good dinner, and the favour of a great man, make the roads go about, when a plain, nearer, and better line can be found.

In many parts both of Scotland and England, the muirs, or commons, belonging to parishes, owing, indeed, sometimes, to the people not agreeing among themselves as to the division and modes of enclosure, lie shamefully waste, and scarcely good for any thing.

Not many years ago the common belonging to this place, consisting of some hundred acres, was covered with broom, furze, and the like, and not worth ten pounds sterling a year; but having agreed to inclose and divide it, the inhabitants have it now in a high state of cultivation, and find it an ample source of advantage. Though too many magistrates and others, like William the Conqueror, seem to delight in having large tracts of land lying uncultivated, yet, fortunately, there are others who think more wisely, and strain every nerve that commons belonging to parishes, and waste grounds near burghs, should be brought into a state of cultivation.

Leaving Clackmannan, I proceeded about twenty miles eastward to Kilbeggie, where there is one of the largest distilleries in Britain, perhaps in Europe: and where, if I am not misinformed, twenty years ago, they offered fifty thousand pounds yearly, and not to enlarge their premises, if government would free them from the torment of excise officers. But this offer was rejected.

Near Kincardine, a thriving sea-port village, on the banks of the Forth, is one of the finest free-stone quarries in Europe. Below the surface, and while yet in the quarry, the stone is white, soft, and easy to work; but when quarried and exposed to the air, it becomes uncommonly hard, and still more beautifully white. It is superior to Portland stone, which furnishes ornaments to the finest palaces and public buildings in London, and takes a more elegant polish. The Stadt-house at Amsterdam, Lord Fife's house at Bamff, &c. &c. are partly built and ornamented with stones from this place.—Kincardine is noted for the longevity of its inhabitants. Is there any connection between this circumstance and the stratum of the free-stone on which it stands?

All along the banks of the Forth they are visited in winter by great numbers of a small fish called garvies, from an island of that name near the Queen's Ferry, where they are caught in vast abundance. They are larger than the sprats of the Thames, though in taste and appearance very like them. They seem to hold a middle place between the sprat and the herring.

So great has been the draught of garvies, that they have sometime carried out cartfuls of them as manure to the ground.—There is also a Salmon fishery near this; which is often extremely productive: but this species of food is generally too dear to be used by the common people. Our forefathers, who cared little for salmon, and thought it so unwholesome, that there was generally a clause inserted in indentures in Scotland, that apprentices should not have salmon set before them above three times a week,

were not active in catching them. But matters are the reverse now. Fisheries on the rivers, as well as the sea-coasts of Scotland, are more and more becoming an object of concern; and nets, boats, and casks, and fishers are almost every where to be seen. Indeed, when any shoal of fishes appears, which is generally indicated by numbers of sea fowls flying about it, joy and gladness appear in every face; and so attentive of late are the officers of his Majesty's ships of war, batteries, &c. about the Frith, that they avoid, as much as possible, firing cannon, lest they should deter the fishes from approaching the coast. If the firing of a cannon will sometimes agitate water to the distance of fifty or more miles, why does the castle of Edinburgh fire her guns upon any but important occasions? Perhaps the firing the guns of the castle of Edinburgh has done more mischief, by driving fish down the Frith, than all the good it ever did.

From Kincardine, along an excellent line of road, I arrived at Culross, which is a royal burgh, beautifully situated on the banks of the Forth, and commanding an extensive prospect, though irregularly built. Lord Dundonald has a noble mansion here, with extensive woods and pleasure grounds. There is a coal-pit here on the beach, whence vessels may receive coals at the pits mouth, where they work it. Though the beach be so level, that, when the tide is ebb, you are more than a mile from the water; when it flows, it comes to the very doors. The town contains a few manufactories of linens and cottons. The people here, as in most towns in Scotland, are divided into a variety of religious parties,

which are too apt to encourage and support strolling preachers. Not long ago, I was informed, a company of players, from the Edinburgh theatre, wished to try their fortune here for a few evenings; and one of them, coming a day before the rest, fell short of cash. Happening, in an ale-house, to fall in with a shoemaker, the player, concealing his profession, proposed to give the inhabitants a word of exhortation. The shoemaker, finding himself in company with such a piously disposed person, immediately called for more porter, and not only offered to be precentor, and otherwise assist him, but also sent to advertise the inhabitants when and where to meet. Great numbers assembled, and the shoemaker, though rather tipsy, precented. The player, having vociferated out an extemporary prayer, and delivered what they thought an excellent sermon, drew from his hearers from five to six pounds sterling; and would have made more of it, had not the other players arrived, and informed them what he was.

In Culross muir, or common, there is a large stone with the mark of a human foot, seemingly indented, though not by art, and so credulous are some of the people here, that even yet it is believed that a witch, who happened to light here, from riding through the air on a broom stick, imprinted this mark with her foot. The word or name Culross, signifies, in the Celtic language, the extremity, or, more properly, the hinder part, Dorsum or Ross, denoting a promontory, which was the antient name of Fife. Thus, too, *Kinross*, signifies the higher part, or the head of Ross, *i. e.* FIFE.

Having passed New-Mills, Torryburn, &c. &c. all on the north side of the Forth, where I observed nothing very remarkable, except uncommonly well cultivated fields, and many evident signs of a thriving country, I came to lord Elgin's lime-works, which are, perhaps, the most extensive in Europe. The conveniency of coals, which are to be found here every where in abundance, the facility of procuring the lime-stone, and its contiguity to the coals, and conveniency of shipping, &c. render this place highly useful to the country, and advantageous to the proprietor.

As I rode along the great road, on the banks of the Forth to the east, I had a beautiful view of Dumfermline, which is a thriving place. Diapers of various fabrics have for a long time past been manufactured here. The church steeple is seen at a great distance, being exceedingly high, as well as more than ordinarily elegant.

At Dumfermline are the remains of a magnificent abbey and palace of the kings of Scotland, in which were born Charles I. and his sister, the princess Elizabeth, mother of the princess Sophia, from whom the present royal family are descended.

The cathedral church of Dumfermline was the burial place of several of the Scottish kings: particularly of Malcolm III. with his queen, Margaret, grand-daughter of Edmund, and of Canute the Great, kings of England; Alexander I. with his queen, Sibilla, David I. and his two queens; Malcolm IV. Alexander III. with his queen, Margaret, daughter of Henry III. king of England; and

Robert I. with his queen, Isabella, besides many other princes and nobles. In short, there is not any spot in Scotland, even Scone not excepted, more fitted to awaken a recollection of former times, and the fortune of the Scottish princes, than Dumfermline. The great actions, and the death, and dying request of Robert Bruce, particularly rush on the mind. His body was buried here. But his heart, at his own earnest desire, was embalmed, and committed to the charge of Sir James Douglas, to be carried and deposited by him in the holy sepulchre at Jerusalem.

This memorable occurrence, which exemplifies the spirit of chivalry, then in the height of its purity and glory, the religious enthusiasm, and, it may be said, the religious chivalry too of the times, is mentioned by all the historians; but by none in so impressive and affecting a manner as the charming and inimitable Froissart, whose dramatic and picturesque manner exhibits scenes as passing before you. I wish I had had a copy of Froissart with me, as I sat musing on a tomb-stone in the church-yard of Dumfermline, with my eyes fixed on the sepulchres of Robert Bruce, and many others of the Scottish kings. I have since seen Froissart's affecting description of that great prince's dying charge to Douglas, in Mr. Johnes's translation of Froissart, which enlivened my recollection of the old cathedral church and church-yard of Dumfermline, in a wonderful manner. Even the elegant narrative of Buchannan, in the purest and most classical Latin, fades and becomes languid before the livelier description of Froissart. As I doubt not but it will appear

extremely interesting, I have subjoined it in a note, for the gratification of my readers.*

* " During this truce between England and Scotland, it happened that king Robert of Scotland, who had been a very valiant knight, waxed old, and was attacked with so severe an illness, (the leprosy) that he saw his end was approaching. He therefore summoned together all the chiefs and barons, in whom he most confided, and, after having told them, that he should never get the better of this sickness, he commanded them, upon their honour and loyalty, to keep and preserve faithfully and entire the kingdom, for his son David, and obey him and crown him king when he was of a proper age, and to marry him with a lady suitable to his station.

" He after that called to him the gallant lord James Douglas, and said to him, in presence of the others, ' my dear friend, lord James Douglas, you know that I have had much to do, and have suffered many troubles, during the time I have lived, to support the rights of my crown: at the time that I was most occupied, I made a vow, the non-accomplishment of which gives me much uneasiness.—I vowed, that if I could finish my wars in such a manner, that I might have quiet to govern peaceably, I would go and make war against the enemies of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the adversaries of the christian faith. To this point my heart has always leaned; but our Lord was not willing, and gave me so much to do in my life-time, and this last expedition has lasted so long, followed by this heavy sickness, that, since my body cannot accomplish what my heart wishes, I will send my heart instead of my body to fulfil my vow. And as I do not know any one knight so gallant or enterprising, or better formed to complete my intentions than yourself, I beg and intreat of you, dear and special friend, as earnestly as I can, that you would have the goodness to undertake this expedition for the love of me, and to acquit my soul to our Lord and Saviour; for I have that opinion of your nobleness and loyalty, that, if you undertake it, it cannot fail of success—and I shall die more contented: but it must be executed as follows:

" I will, that as soon as I shall be dead, you take my heart from my body, and have it well embalmed: you will also take as much money from my treasury, as will appear to you sufficient to perform your

As the town of Dumfermline stands on elevated ground, and the steeple, which is very high, is seen at a vast distance in almost every direction, as already noticed, so the prospect from the battlements of this, is one of the most extensive, as well as beautiful, in this island. From thence is to be seen part of fourteen different counties, including the Sontra, and Lammer-Muir Hills; Ben Lomond, Ben Leddia, and

journey, as well as for all those whom you may choose to take with you in your train; you will then deposit your charge at the holy sepulchre of our Lord, where he was buried, since my body cannot go there. You will not be sparing of expense—and provide yourself with such company, and such things, as may be suitable to your rank—and wherever you pass, you will let it be known, that you bear the heart of king Robert of Scotland, which you are carrying beyond seas, by his command, since his body cannot go thither!

"All those persons began bewailing bitterly; and when the lord James could speak, he said, 'Gallant and noble king, I return you a hundred thousand thanks, for the high honour you do me, and for the valuable and dear treasure which you entrust me; and I will most willingly do all that you command me, with the utmost loyalty in my power; never doubt it, however I may feel myself unworthy of such a high distinction.'

"The king replied 'Gallant knight, I thank you—you promise it me then?'

"'Certainly, sir, most willingly,' answered the knight. He then gave his promise upon his knighthood.

"The king said, 'Thanks be to God, for I shall now die in peace, since I know that the most valiant and accomplished knight of my kingdom, will perform that for me, which I am unable to do for myself.'

"Soon afterwards, the valiant Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, departed this life, on the 7th of November, 1327. His heart was embalmed, and his body buried in the monastery of Dumfermline.

Translation of Sir John Froissart's Chronicles, by Mr. Johnes, vol. 1. p. 72—3.

Benvoirlich; the Kippen Hills, and the south-western extremity of the Aichil or Ochil Hills, and the Hills of Campsie; the Pentland Hills; Hopetoun House; Blackness Castle; Linlithgow, and Borroustouness; Culross; the meandrings of the Forth from Stirling to Leith, and the metropolis of Scotland, with its castle and spires: all which places are very distinctly and clearly seen from the steeple of Dumfermline, in clear weather.

FROM DUMFERMLINE TO ST. ANDREWS.

IN my way from Dumfermline I fell in with a great number of people about the door of a decent-looking house. Upon inquiry, I found that a man within had been, for some days, in a trance, or was actually dead. He had no appearance of life, yet he was neither cold nor stiff, nor had he that pale cadaverous colour which dead bodies generally assume. As he had been several days in this state, without the least breath, motion, or sign of life, they were at a loss to know whether it would be proper to bury him or not. For my part, I could give no advice, other than to let the body remain unburied till signs of putrefaction appeared. I mentioned that dead bodies are sometimes found turned on their face in coffins and suffocated, having returned to life after they have been buried, and bleeding at the nose, mouth, and ears. Having thus done what I could to have the body kept a little longer above ground, I soon arrived at Inverkeithing.

I need scarcely, I suppose, mention, that the word Inver, means the mouth or place where one river runs into another, or into the sea. Hence Inveresk, the mouth of the Esk; Inverness, the mouth of the river Ness; Inverary, the mouth of the river of that name; and so on.

Inverkeithing is a royal burgh, where David I. king of Scotland, had a royal palace. There is a fine

large commodious bay near this place, to which ships often run in distress. The town is but small, and very irregularly built; it has, however, some foreign and domestic trade.

Having found a church door open, and seeing people going into it, I went in with the rest, and found the clergyman, who, though a man of a decent appearance, was literally a thumper on the cushion, commenting on that passage, "Thou shalt not seeth a kid in its mother's milk," and vociferating against the abominable barbarity of those who were so void of feeling as to think of such a dish. He seemed zealous enough, and to be perfectly acquainted with rant and declamation, but totally destitute of logical deduction and biblical knowledge, an acquaintance with Jewish antiquities, and indeed common sense; for neither have the people of Inverkeithing any kids; nor, if they had, would they ever think of seething them in their mother's milk.

Having seen Sir John Henderson's pretty seat, Aberdour, the earl of Morton's, and the earl of Moray's vast improvements, and been much pleased with the beauty and variety of objects occurring almost every where in this part of the country, as well as Burnt Island, the great emporium of the herring fishery, I came to Kinghorn.

While at Kinghorn, I learnt that Mr. S— H— some time ago had a hairsbreadth escape there. He was impatient to be at Edinburgh, as he was in hopes of an excellent place; and his obtaining it depended entirely on his being there before the post. He waited for hours, but, the weather being stormy, no boat would venture out. At length

one was about to sail out. Having occasion to retire, he stepped aside about a minute, and before he returned the boat was off, and all his persuasion could not prevail on them to return, though they were but a few yards off when he began to entreat them. Vexed and irritated that he was obliged to stay, he passed a sleepless night; but his heart was filled with gratitude to Providence when he heard in the morning that every soul had gone to the bottom. Having passed through Kirkaldy and Dysart, renowned for the possession of three good things, fish, coals, and salt, I came to a fishing village of considerable extent, called Buckhaven, originally peopled by some men and women, (for women in the north go a fishing,) who, more than a hundred years ago, were driven on the Fifan shore, in an open boat, from the coast of Denmark. Having been allowed a small portion of ground by the earl of Wemyss, the lord of the soil, they built huts about the harbour where they landed; and, as it was their employment in their own country, they became fishers, and both men and women went out every day to fish as they had been accustomed to do.

This colony of fishers were a rude and simple people, as their descendants in fact are at this day. They have never intermingled much with the neighbouring inhabitants, but associate with one another. In manners, the pronunciation of words, in some words themselves, and in dress, they still bear marks of their seafaring and Scandinavian origin. They are a common subject of laughter to their more polished neighbours, and being aware

of this, they eye every stranger with not a little jealousy and suspicion, that he has come among them only to spy their ways and laugh at them. There is also a colony of shipwrecked Danes in the marshy grounds on the sea side, in the parish of Leuchars, between the mouths of the Tay and the Eden, that is, between St. Andrews and Dundee. This colony is on a much greater scale than that at Buckhaven, but exactly resembling them in all the characteristic features just mentioned; with this addition, that whereas the Buckhaveners confine themselves to fishing, the Danes (for so they are still called) of the moors or marshes of Leuchars, are not only fishers, but are, or lately were, employed in the smuggling trade. They adhere, like the colony at Buckhaven, to the sea-shore, nor have the farmers in that corner of Fife been able to allure them to any kind of agricultural labour. They do not live in one town or large village like the fishers of Buckhaven, but are scattered over a wide and poor tract of land in separate hamlets or huts constructed of earth and stones, with a small garden, and a few acres of arable land around each. The common marsh or moor affords pasturage to a few sheep, and small and half-starved cattle.

When men are assembled together in towns, they become confident in mutual aid, bold, saucy, and offensive. Scattered in small villages and hamlets, they retain the simplicity, the modesty, and the innocence of uncorrupted nature. It would seem, that the vices of mankind are more contagious than their virtues. The Danes of the moors are a simple people; and when any of their neighbours among

the Fifans, or what I shall here call the aboriginal inhabitants of Fife, happen to go amongst them, and call at any of their houses, they take it as a compliment, and do every thing in their power to testify their good will and their sincere regard and affection. Not so the Buckhaveners: who are jealous of strangers, whom they are apt to view in a hostile light, as already mentioned.

This race of mortals are said to have scarcely any other ideas or words to express any ideas besides those relating to their own condition and occupations. Though they suffered the ministers of the parish to come to their houses and baptize their children, or to perform the ceremony of marriage, it was not till very lately that any of them could be persuaded to go to the kirk: not that they had any prejudice against the church of Scotland, or predilection in favour of Lutheranism, the established religion of their own parent state, but that they were equally ignorant and indifferent to all systems of religion. They would not have had the smallest idea of what the minister was discoursing about if they had gone to hear a sermon. They had, however, some reverence for the Sabbath and for Christmas-day; but the religion that really had a hold of their minds, and of course had its influence, was a very great number of omens and superstitious observances. When urged to go to the kirk, some of them would say they were ashamed; others, that the men of Fife would mock them; and others, that they must bait their fishing-hooks. The late amiable, polite, and accomplished Dr. Spens, known as the translator of the Republic of Plato, their mini-

ster, was the first among their spiritual instructors who was able to communicate to their gross and contracted minds any tolerable notion of either natural or revealed religion. During the ministry of one of his predecessors in the pastoral office, two young people, a man and his wife, suffered themselves to be persuaded by one of the elders, who was not only a religious but an honest and well-meaning man, to go with him one Sunday to church; but they could never be persuaded to go again. It was formerly usual with the ministers of the church of Scotland to preach very much on the more awful and terrific subjects; and whatever the subject was, there was an earnestness and vehemence in their manner much greater than is usual in England, or at the present day even in Scotland. The good elder went to express his regrets to the newly-married couple, and remonstrate against their neglect and contempt of the kirk—"Was not that an excellent sermon the minister gave you? Is he not a good man, and so carefully concerned for all your souls? What for did you not come again to the kirk?"

The woman said, "that she was afraid to come, he scolded so;" the man—"Sink me, gin I ken what he would ha' been at."

Dr. Spens, proceeding from objects and ideas that were familiar to their minds to others with which they were unacquainted, but to which those familiar ideas bore some resemblance or analogy, succeeded in communicating some notion of a creator, a redeemer, and a future judgement. The obstacles he had to encounter in this pious and

laudable work, and the means by which he surmounted them, was a subject of philosophical speculation to the worthy and ingenious doctor, who would sometimes amuse his friends with an account of both.

I had heard of a pamphlet, which sells for a penny, describing the village of Buckhaven, and the manners, customs, and notions of its inhabitants. I wished to see it, and told the landlord of the inn that I would, as he had it not himself, pay him well if he could get me a sight of it. I heard no more of it till about an hour after, when, as I was mounting my horse, I saw a number of savage-looking men and women gathering around me, demanding who and what I was? In order to get the pamphlet, my hostess had set the bell through the town, offering a shilling for the book: and as it represents them in a ludicrous point of view, and they think nobody reads it but with a view to laugh at them, they had determined to give me a drubbing. The truth is, I was obliged to stop, and it required all my address, as well as the aid of my purse, to get off with a whole head; which I at length effected by distributing money among their children, and giving them plenty of porter.

Journeying eastward along this charming coast, I came to the town of Levin, situated at the mouth of the river Levin; which, issuing from Loch Levin, empties itself into Largo Bay. It is a clean little town, and apparently in a thriving situation. There is a salmon fishery here not inconsiderable, and a good deal of trade in coals; and, what is not every where to be found in the numerous

towns and villages that skirt the Fifan shores, a very good inn, where I passed the night. Having crossed the river in a ferry-boat, I was now in the east nook of Fife, comprehending the tract of country from Largo Bay, by the village of Largo, Colinsburgh, the Ely, St. Monan's, Pittenweem, Eastern and Western Anstruther, and Kilrenny, to Craill; and from Craill, in a north-westward direction, to St. Andrews and the Eden. An imaginary line from St. Andrews to Largo forms this famous nook into a kind of triangle, to which a person, who should never have been out of Scotland, might well apply the lines of Horace, speaking of Tarentum—

Ille terrarum mihi preter omnes
Angulus ridet.
Hor. Carm. Lib. ii. *Ode* vi.

The attention of the eastward traveller, on crossing the Leven, is first solicited by Largo Law, situated about a mile north of the village of Largo, a high but gently rising hill, verdant to the top, which is elevated to the height of nine hundred feet above the level of the sea, and from which there is a very rich, beautiful, and extensive prospect: a great part of the interior of Fife; the Forth, beautifully winding along the southern coast, often agreeably diversified with ships of various burdens, and sometimes with squadrons and fleets; the opposite coast of the three Lothians, from Dunbar to Borrowstownness, a great part of Stirlingshire, and part also of Lanerkshire and Berwickshire. The Scottish metropolis, with the picturesque and sub-

lime scenery around it, and its sea-port, Leith, is seen in the clearest and most distinct manner aslant the Firth. It is not easy to believe that it lies at the distance of fifteen miles. It seems as if it were at your feet.

From the roots of Largo Law, the ground rising by a gentle acclivity above the plain between that hill and the Frith, slopes to the east till Kelly Law suddenly, as it were, and abruptly, raises his green head, as if emulous of the superior grandeur of Largo Law. And to the east of Kelly Law again there is another smaller hill, or rather knoll, the name of which I do not recollect, from whence the ground continues sloping more and more eastward, till it sinks into the plain land about Craill—the *Crelia Crofta* mentioned in the famous Polemio Midinia of Drummond, of Hawthornden.

> Nymphæ quæ Colitis high hissima monta Fifeæ,
> Seu vos Pittenweema tenet seu Crelia Crofta,
> Sive Anstræa Domus, ubi nat Hadoccus in undis, &c.

The steepest and boldest aspects of these elevations, all fronting, like other chains of hills or eminences the west, and all growing less and less till they die away in the ocean, impress the mind, as by a sensation, with a conviction that all these phænomena spring from one cause, acting by an uniformity of operation.

The vapour floating in the atmosphere from the west, as is most common here to east, is first attracted, of course, by Largo Law, the summit of which, enveloped in a dense cloud, forms a sure pre-

sage of rain over all the east nook. The people here say proverbially,

> When Largo Law puts on his hat,
> Let Kelly Law beware of that.

The rising grounds here, or, as they are called in the Scotch and Norwegian languages, braes, are here and there intersected with rivulets or streams of water, which have formed in some places excavations so deep, that they take the name of Dens. The banks of these, when planted with a variety of forest trees, as at Largo, and Balcarras, attract a variety of birds, which enliven them with their songs. In the Den of Largo, walks are formed along the sides of the streams, or rivulets, that run through the middle of it. You plunge as far as you please into the thickest shades and deepest solitude, if that can be called a deep solitude, where the chanting of birds is heard from above, and the murmuring of waters, falling sometimes into small cascades, sometimes at your side, sometimes below. In returning from your inward walk, a prospect is gradually opened of a fine rich plain, a prospect almost as delightful, I suppose, at least to the proprietors of estates here, as the valley of Tempe, in Thessaly. But there are circumstances which bestow peculiar interest on the prospects on the southern coast of Fife, besides those of their natural beauties; not only in the imagination of landholders, but of every Scotchman. They are enlivened by the association of moral ideas. They are remembrancers of the

history of the country: and they carry the imagination to many of those busy scenes and places of resort, in which there are few spectators who are not interested in them by some relation or other—prospects still more beautiful and sublime are not wanting in America, and on the mountainous regions that divide Tartary from India and China. But these, however they may strike the senses of an European, take but little hold on the mind and heart, when compared with views that awaken a thousand moral ideas, whether we recollect the past, attend to the present, or anticipate the future.

The ridge of rising, rather than hilly, ground, already described, divides the East Nook of Fife into two parts: the one, that rising ground itself, with the land that stretches north, forming a kind of inclined plain to the bay of St. Andrews; the other, that low and level land which lies between the rising ground to the north, and the Frith of Forth, which, from the Queens-ferry to its mouth, from North Berwick to Fifeness, (where it is full five leagues broad,) may be called, as it is in fact, an arm of the sea. In the whole of this tract, consisting of both these parts, there is abundance of coal, lime, and free-stone. The first-mentioned part is divided between tillage and pasturage. There are several grass farms, of very great extent, on which the farmers have made large fortunes. The other part presents an uninterrupted, though variegated, view of fertile and well cultivated fields, elegant seats, neat farmsteads, populous villages, thriving through industry, and a chain of burgh towns that flourished through industry, too, before the union of the kingdoms, lan-

guished in the torpitude of sloth from that period for a century, and, some of which have lately exhibited symptoms of returning industry, forming presages of returning prosperity. Nature has certainly done her part for this charming district. They have abundance of coals, salt, and fish for the catching, plentiful supplies of vegetables, grain, and animal food, and an easy outlet, by means of the Frith of Forth, for what they can spare, as well as an inlet to what they want. Having thus taken a bird's-eye prospect of the East Nook of Fife, I return to Largo. The house of Largo, belonging to Mr. Durham, the Laird of Largo, is pleasantly situated, where the ground begins to swell into that elevation, which is terminated by the summit of Largo Law, and surrounded by plantations, or stripes of trees, including those of the Den already noticed. It is a very elegant and commodious dwelling. Mr. Durham, next to the late earl of Balcarras, was the foremost, as well as one of the greatest improvers of agriculture in the East Nook. The whole of his estate is now both drained and enclosed. His example has been happily followed by his neighbours. There is not any parish in Scotland better cultivated, or, in general, in a more thriving state, than that of Largo. It was in this parish, and, I believe, the town or village, that the famous Alexander Selkirk, the archetype of *Robinson Crusoe*, was born. From Selkirk, Daniel de Foe received the authentic materials from which he composed the charming romance that goes by that name; and of which the main incidents are not fictitious, but real. What a contrast between the solitary situation of poor

Selkirk in the island of Juan Fernandez, and the pleasant and cheerful haunts of his youth, at Largo? on which, the Law, the Den, the Bay, &c. we may presume, he often mused with regret and anguish.—Andrew Wood, so much renowned in the Scottish history, as a brave and successful admiral, is also a native of Largo. The Admiral, who was the Laird of Largo, flourished in the reign of James IV. of Scotland, who was killed in the battle of Flowden. It would appear that the estate of Largo remained in the possession of his family till past the middle of the 17th century; for, in 1660, an hospital was founded at Largo, by Mr. John Wood, of the Largo family, for twelve old men of the name of Wood, who, with their wives, are accommodated each with a room and closet, and have an annual pension for their maintenance. They are supplied with vegetables by a large garden. The annual pension was at first 100l. Scots, that is, 8l. 6s. 3d. sterling: but as the funds arose chiefly from an adjacent farm or two, belonging to the hospital, the original pensions have been increased with the increasing rents, or, in other words, in the inverse ratio of the decreasing value of money. The patronage of the hospital, and the administration of the funds, being invested, not in any petty corporation or junto of low or necessitous men, but in the Lairds, or proprietors of the estates of Largo, Lundin, Wemyss, and Balfour, with the minister of Largo, the funds are not embezzled, but administered faithfully.

At a promontory on the south-east side of Largo Bay, called Kincraig, there is a very curious relic, or memorial, of an interesting event in the history

of Scotland. The rocks of Kincraig are remarkable for caves; some of which, like Stone-Henge, can hardly be distinguished from works of art. They are deep excavations formed by the influx of the sea. In one of these, distinguished by the name of Macduff's Cave, are some remains of a wall, which was built across by Macduff, Earl of Fife, for the purpose of defending himself against any sudden attack by the usurper Macbeth, who, having murdered his own cousin, King Duncan, ascended the throne of Scotland, and kept possession of it for seventeen years. Macduff's Cave penetrates into the rock above two hunderd feet, and is one hundred and sixty feet in height, forming a grand alcove, which, at full tide, projects for several feet over the sea. While the thane of Fife hoped to secure himself amidst the caves of Kincraig, he received the greatest proofs of favour and attachment from the inhabitants of a neighbouring village; and when he despaired of this, of escaping the fury of the tyrant in ferrying him over to North Berwick. There is no one at all acquainted with the history of Scotland, or with the immortal Shakespeare's Tragedy of Macbeth, who can be ignorant of the flight of Macduff, from the tyranny of Macbeth, to Prince Malcolm, who had also made his escape from the tyrant, to the court of his uncle Siward, Duke, or rather Viceroy, or Prince of Northumberland, nor yet of the share he had in the raising of Malcolm to the throne of Scotland. On the advancement of Malcolm Canmore to the sovereignty of Scotland, the Earl of Fife obtained many privileges to the friendly village, by this time called after him the Earl's Ferry,

which had so generously favoured both his concealment and escape; and among others, the following, which is not a little singular, but not in the least dissonant with the genius of the times; that, upon the application of any person accused of a crime, and flying for his life, the town is obliged to ferry him over immediately, and must not ferry over his pursuers, till the supposed criminal is half way over the Frith. This privilege has been at different times claimed, and granted; and once so lately as the beginning of last century, by Mr. Douglas, of Finhaven, who mortally wounded Mr. Carnegie, of Balnamone, by a thrust aimed in a crowd at another person.

Leaving Kincraig and Earl's Ferry, I passed through Elie, to which these are almost contiguous. Elie, which is a royal burgh, is built so near to the sea, that in some places it washes its walls. The harbour of Elie is the deepest in the Frith, except that of Burnt Island. This excellent harbour is a great resort of wind-bound vessels. A considerable foreign trade is carried on here. Ships, too, are built. There are also some manufactures: in short, there is a greater appearance of industry and enterprize at the Elie, than at any other town in the East-Nook, or, on the coast of Fife to the eastward of Dysart; which may partly be accounted for, by its advanced position on the Frith, and the excellence of its harbour, which naturally invite commerce. But as the prerogatives of nature are often long neglected, where no active and enterprising spirit is to be found, I suppose that something is to be set down to the genius of some individuals here. They talk a good deal in the East-Nook of the Woods of the

Elie, who, I understand, trade, to a large amount, to the Baltic.

The same spirit of industry that distinguishes the little town is displayed over the whole of the parish of Elie. The whole of the land was inclosed with hedges and ditches by the late Sir John Anstruther, the proprietor. This gentleman is well known by the Agricultural Society of Bath, and all who have made agriculture a particular study, to have been one of the most judicious, as well as successful agriculturists, in this country. In 1796, he published "Remarks on the Drill-Husbandry; by which the superior advantages of that mode of cultivation are pointed out; also, a comparison of this with the most approved methods of the broad-cast husbandry." His remarks are plain, easily comprehended by every capacity, and solid, being founded on repeated and varied experiment. He invented a plough for hoeing, worked by men, for which the Society of Arts bestowed a premium of twenty pounds. It runs upon a wheel, with a pole, by which men draw it, and it is directed by a man. By altering the shares it will hoe different breadths; and will also hoe three nine-inch spaces, with three small hoes. The twenty pounds, premium, Sir John generously gave to the person who constructed the plough, according to his directions. The seat of this gentleman, Elie-House, is reckoned the finest in this part of the country. The exterior certainly has an air of both magnificence and beauty; nor is its interior, they say, at all unsuitable to its external appearance. It contains some excellent pictures, particularly one of Mary, Queen of Scots, which is done by the same

hand with that at Alloa-House, and accounted one of the best extant.

Adjoining to Sir John Anstruther's park, or pleasure-ground, there is a lake, about two miles in circumference, called the Loch of Kilconquhar. It lies between the village of Kilconquhar and Sir John's park, of which, on that side, it completes the inclosure. It is the common property of Sir John, and Mr. Beton, of Balfour, the proprietor of Kilconquhar. The island is interspersed with small islands, or islets, on which are planted clumps of shrubs and trees. And it is stored with perch and eels. On the surface are seen a great number of swans. Some of the eels caught here are said to be of a monstrous size; but of these it is not every one, nor many of the inhabitants of those parts, that can be induced to eat, though the inhabitants of sea-coasts are not near so nice and squeamish, with regard to kinds of food, as those of the inland parts. The people of Kilconquhar, and other places hereabouts, though they reject enormous eels, do not scruple to eat small ones. But there are very few of the people in the inland counties, and particularly in the Highlands, who will eat eels of any kind. It appears somewhat singular, that it is in the poorest and worst provided places, that the Scots are the nicest in the choice of their food. There are several kinds of fishes, besides eels, used as food by the people on the sea coast, that would scarcely be touched by those of the inland and Highland parts. It is not much more than half a century since the use of swine's flesh, as food, in the Highlands, was generally known. They held it in a degree of abomination. There are

many persons of undoubted veracity, by whose concurring testimony, this fact is established, beyond all doubt, still living. When any of the gentlemen, or others, who had conquered prejudices by travelling, or an intercourse with the Lowlands and with England, was known to eat pork, he was regarded, by the common people, with wonder and astonishment, just as the people of England are astonished at the practice of eating frogs and snails, which is sometimes adopted by English travellers, on their return from France and Italy. Yet the Highlanders, at all times, raised droves of small hogs, which they sent to the towns, in the Lowlands, that were nearest to them, or, where they would fetch the best price; as Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Glasgow, and so on.

There are several kinds of birds, too, of which though good for food, they will not taste. When they are asked a reason for this abstinence, they give no other than this, "that they are not good for eating," by which they do not mean that they are either unsavoury or unwholesome, but that there would be something wrong, and even ominous, in eating them. When pressed again to give a reason for thinking so, they say, that they never knew any one of their neighbours, or family, to eat of them. It is not every one, even in the Lowlands of Scotland, that will taste of rabbits, or hares; but, perhaps, it is because they are prohibited by the law of Moses, as "though they chew the cud, they divide not the hoof." The antipathies of the higher orders to certain kinds of food, do not originate in any religious prejudices, or at least any notions derived from the Christian religion.

Nearly a-kin to this delicacy, or squeamishness, or whatever it may be called, respecting the flesh of animals, is an abhorrence prevalent, not only in the Highlands, but, all the moorland and poorer districts of Scotland, of mixture in farinaceous food. In the Merse, the Lothians, the Carses of Gowrie and Falkirk, and other fertile tracts, producing all kinds of grain, they make bread of all kinds of flour mixed up together; barley-meal, peas-meal, oat-meal, rye-meal, &c. In the mountainous and moorish, that is, in the poor parts of the country, this custom would appear very disgusting, or on some account or other, very improper bread. Of any one kind of grain they will eat without scruple, and be very glad to get it, but not of any two or more of them mixed. But I return to the Loch of Kilconquhar, on the margin of which, eels of an enormous size are found lying in a state of putrefaction, or their bones picked by carrion crows; while those of an ordinary size are carefully caught and carried home to the neighbouring villages and hamlets.

At the village of Kilconquhar, I went just to take a glance of the minister's house, the residence of the late

Dr. John Chalmers, of whom I had heard so much in so many parts of Scotland. Though I had not any letter of introduction, I might have presented myself to his intelligent, enlightened, and amiable successor, who, I am sure, would have received any stranger kindly and hospitably, and I would have profited much by his conversation. Dr. Chalmers was not an author, or at least if he was, he never published any thing; but he was as well known,

and as much esteemed and admired, as any of the most celebrated literati in Scotland. Indeed, both his genius and learning were considered, by those who knew him best, and were the most competent to judge, as of a cast superior to those of any of his cotemporaries. Having said this, I must observe that Dr. Chalmers departed this life in the year 1790, aged upwards of eighty years. He was more intimately acquainted with the philosophical writers of Greece and Rome, particularly those of Xenophon and Plato, than any of the Scotch literati; and this was universally, I believe, acknowledged. But his favourite author among ancients or moderns was Plato; and he carried all the fine reasoning and irony of Socrates into his conversation and disputes on philosophical subjects.

His wit was not confined to irony. Having a quick sense or perception of whatever was weak, absurd, or ridiculous, and an imagination stored with a very great variety of ideas taken from all subjects, and at the same time being extremely lively, he would, by some very unexpected association of ideas, provoke irresistible laughter, or confound an antagonist with the smartness of repartee. For the exercise of these powers he had frequent opportunities in the different kirk courts of Scotland, as well as in private companies. But his wit and his raillery was perfectly good-humoured and without gall; and he was perfectly free from that affectation of wit, or ambition of displaying it, which characterizes punsters and other witlings, such as most of our players, who are for ever on the stretch to say good things. His wit seemed to be incorporated with his very turn of thinking and manner

of viewing arguments and objects. It was, indeed, like that of his own Socrates, the wit of reason.

It is certainly a very unequivocal symptom of the decay of learning in the latter part of the last century and at the present day, that we have so many translators of the ancient writers. In the seventeenth, and the first part of the eighteenth century, not only scholars, such as Hooker, Cudworth, and Stillingfleet, but even accomplished gentlemen, or men of the world, such as Sir Walter Raleigh, Fletcher of Saltoun, Algernon Sydney, and others, read the ancients in the original; in which, indeed alone, the force of their reasonings, or the charm of their eloquence, is to be felt and tasted. In our days there does not appear to be many who study the ancients merely for the sake of deriving instruction from them or enjoying their beauties. Those who are, or take themselves to be, capital Greek scholars, are not contented with their own private instruction or entertainment,

> Scire tuum nihil est, Nisi te scire hoc, sciat alter.
>
> HORAT.

They are eager to publish translations, with notes, perhaps, or preliminary discourses, in order to shew that they themselves are excellent scholars. That this vanity, or love of praise, not the information of the world, is their object, is evident from the jealousy and animosity with which they treat one another. They are very sore, when any one else pretends to know what they know. The gabble set up between the translators of Aristotle, Plato, &c. is not certainly so great a proof either that they themselves

have caught the true spirit of those sublime and acute philosophers, or that they are desirous of communicating that spirit to others, as that they themselves should be considered both as very learned men and great philosophers.

Nothing of this silly, and indeed, odious affectation was about Dr. Chalmers. If ever a man could translate Plato and Aristotle he could. But, instead of translating and publishing translations, he read them over and over in the original Greek, and recommended to all who wished to be acquainted with them to do the same. He was very accessible, and even invited the acquaintance of studious youth, particularly students in divinity, to whom he recommended, instead of an immense number of commentators and controversial theologists, to read PLATO and the BIBLE. These alone were sufficient to form an orthodox, accomplished, and eloquent divine. He had the highest veneration for our English translators of both the Old and New Testament; yet he recommended to read the Scriptures, particularly the Pentateuch and the New Testament in the originals. As a general recommendation and introduction to Plato, he was at pains to shew, that the unity of the Divine Being, or source of all existence, is not only asserted in the writings of the Grecian philosophers, particularly the Platonists, who themselves derived it from patriarchal ages and the East, but that the nature, manner, and mode of his existence and attributes, or at least, the manner or mode in which the human intellect may conceive it to be possible for them to exist, is in some measure explained. The pro-

ductions of nature, more exquisite than those of art, flow not from any fortuitous concourse of elements, but from design; but design, wherever it is found, implies mind; something which, when it acts, both knows what it is doing, and knows that it knows it—KNOWS its KNOWLEDGE; the character that distiguishes the human kind from other animals—something that is furnished with ideas of its intended works, agreeably to which ideas those works are fashioned. The whole visible world is nothing more than so many passing pictures of those invisible archetypes. Through these the universe attains even a semblance of immortality, and continues throughout ages to be specifically ONE amidst all those particular changes that every moment befal it. It is in these comprehensive and permanent forms that the Deity views at once, without going abroad, all possible productions, both present, past, and future. This intellectual system Dr. Chalmers embraced, and sought for every opportunity to shew, from the pulpit and in private conversation, that it was perfectly consonant with the doctrines of the Christian religion, which teaches that "God is all, and in all." Even the doctrine of the Trinity is taught in the writings of Plato.

Though Dr. Chalmers never published any translation or commentary on Plato, he was not a little active in maintaining his system, and VIVA VOCE. He would go a great way to converse with Dr. Oswald, Dr. Reid, and others of those who have been distinguished, sometimes by the name of the common sense philosophers. He shewed, that the same sceptical arguments that have been urged by

bishop Berkley and Mr. Hume were thrown out by the antients, as appears from Plato and his commentators, who considered them as idle dreams, from which men were soon recovered by the force of nature; which, by the concession, and in the language of Mr. Hume, "always has and always will maintain her rights," and that nothing more than this, is in fact contended for by the school just mentioned. "We believe, because we must believe," says Dr. Reid, "*though we cannot tell why.*

It may, perhaps, be wondered, that Dr. Chalmers, who was for so many years a member of the presbytery of St. Andrews, was not called to be principal of one or other of the colleges there. But this wonder will cease when we consider the qualities and circumstances that sometimes push men into provostships or principalities both in that and some others of the Scotch and perhaps all universities. Perhaps, indeed, Dr. Chalmers, whose living was a very good one, would not have exchanged Kilconquhar and its vicinity, to which he was attached by birth, by a very general acquaintance with people of distinction, and with one family of distinction by marriage, for even the office of principal in any of the colleges of St. Andrews, but he never had the offer. I have been informed by the gentleman to whom I am indebted for this account of Dr. Chalmers, that he left behind him a manuscript containing a comparison of the style and manner, or eloquence, of Xenophon, with that of Plato, where he gives the preference to that of the latter, in opposition to the common opinion which gives it to Xenophon. The publication of this would be a high gratification to all, and there were not a few who knew Dr.

Chalmers either personally or by reputation. Amidst that variety of beautiful country seats which now drew my attention, I had not time to visit any other than that of the earl of Balcarras, which is situated on an eminence, with a gentle declivity to the south, about three miles north from Elie, or the Elie, as it is called, and two from Kilconquhar. The house, though neither modern nor of any gothic magnificence, is sufficiently spacious and commodious, and derives a venerable air from an adjoining grove of old trees, and a chapel still entire, and kept water-tight. There is an excellent library, with an admirable collection of books of history, and some curious manuscripts. The land around Balcarras, and I believe the whole estate, is inclosed, and properly divided into fields by stone dykes. The late earl having seen many improvements in agriculture in different countries, in the course of a long service in the army, imported them when he retired to his own estate, which, though of small extent, he raised to very considerable value. He was accounted the best farmer in the East Nook of Fife; and would have been reckoned the best in all Fife, if the palm in agriculture had not been disputed with him by other military gentlemen, such as Colonel, afterwards General, Skeene, and Major Law, who displayed equal skill in the cultivation of their respective estates in the vicinty of Strathmeiglo and Falkland.

The house of Balcarras commands a noble view of the coast and Frith of Forth winding round the part of the coast comprehended in this view, almost in a semicircular direction. You see the whole coast

of Mid Lothian, and East Lothian, and as far as St. Abb's Head, not far from the town of Berwick, which enlivens the prospect by many interesting recollections. North Berwick Law, the stupendous rock, called the Bass, and the Isle of May, appear as so many floating islands, or castles, in the sea. On the east side of Balcarras House is a crag, rising in the midst of rich fields, from which this grand and beautiful prospect is enjoyed to great advantage; and on the east side of the crag, a den, above noticed, about a mile in length, with a stream of water running through the midst of it, and rendered vocal by the music of the birds that are attracted to this Elysium by the shrubs and trees. From Colinsburgh, a neat village holding of the lordship of Balcarras, I passed to Pittenweem, once a place of very considerable trade, and still not a little enlivened for a royal burgh in this quarter, by salt works, collieries, and fishing. Sir John Anstruther, the chief proprietor in this parish, has been very instrumental here, as in the parish of Ely, in awakening a spirit of industry. At the inn, where I fell in with some of the townspeople, I was amused with a number of traditionary anecdotes concerning a visit that was paid to the good town of Pittenweem by King Charles II. accompanied by a number of his courtiers, who were elegantly entertained by the baillies and town council. An extract of the records of council respecting his entertainment is inserted in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland. But what induced his majesty to pay a visit to Pittenweem I have not learnt. After the defeat of the Scotch army under General Leslie by Cromwell,

near Dunbar, Sept. 1650, Charles put himself at the head of the remains of his army; and these he farther strengthened by the royalists, who had for some time been excluded from his service by the Covenanters.

To strengthen the royal party still farther, he was, on the 1st of January, 1651, solemnly crowned at Scone, the parliament in the mean time being assembled at Perth, "where Charles," says Mr. Hume, "was little better than a prisoner, exposed to all the rudeness and pedantry of the ecclesiastics. The clergy never could esteem the king sufficiently regenerated; and, by continual exhortations, remonstrances, and reprimands, they still endeavoured to bring him to a sense of his spiritual duty." It was at this period that Charles, whether for the purpose of conciliating the attachment of a town, at that time it would seem of first rate importance, or merely as a relaxation from the severities at Perth, made an excursion to Pittenweem, attended, no doubt, by the earl of Argyle and the other chiefs of the Covenanters, who were unwilling to trust him in any other hands, or that he should go out of their sight.

Who were present with the king at the entertainment of Pittenweem cannot be a matter of great curiosity to any others than the burghers of that place. No doubt the principal nobility and gentry thereabouts were invited; and, above all, the knight of Anstruther, so near a neighbour, and HEREDITARY CARVER to the kings of Scotland, must certainly have been present. From the specimen I had of the manner in which one may live at

Pittenweem, the variety and plenty of fish, fowl, &c. I judge that his majesty must have been entertained in a royal and plentiful manner. The sea-coast furnished all manner of provisions in abundance, and wines and spirituous liquors were then to be had on all the eastern coast of Scotland for an old song. About thirty years ago there were people living at St. Andrews, and, I presume, other towns on the coast of Fife, who remembered the time when a CHOPIN, that is, an English quart of claret, was to be had for one shilling. Until the severe vigilance of Mr. Pitt, the rigour of duties was in no small degree mitigated by means of smuggling; and even now, I understand, a cask of brandy or geneva sometimes eludes the grasp of the exchequer.

The Frith and the shores here put on a very picturesque appearance. A little to the right is seen the church and steeple of St. Monans, once part of old convent, which was a magnificent gothic pile of hewn stone, situated on a triangular rock projecting into the sea; and in front, the Isle of May, which belongs to the parish of Pittenweem, the Bass, Craig Leith, and North Berwick Law. The Isle of May is about a mile and an half in circumference, and is about six or seven miles from the coast of Fife. It formerly belonged to the priory of Pittenweem. It has a tower and light-house built by a Mr. Cunningham, of Barns, to whom King Charles I. granted the island in fee, that is, as a feu, or fief, of the crown, with power to exact two-pence per ton for the maintenance of a light-house. In the middle of it, there is a fresh water spring and a small

lake. The soil produces pasturage for some black cattle and sheep. On the west side the steep rocks render it inaccessible; but on the east there are landing places and a good road for ships. Being situated nearly midway between Fife and Lothian, it seems designed by nature to be a guard for the Frith.

It was here that the celebrated Admiral Wood was wont to lie in wait for the English squadrons sent to ravage the Frith and the opposite coasts. In this road the French squadron, having on board the Chevalier de St. George, anchored in 1708, when the English admiral, Sir George Byng, obliged them to relinquish their design, and bear away for Dunkirk. The shores all around the island abound with fish, and the cliffs with water fowls, as gannets, or solan geese, sea gulls, plovers, swallows, &c. There is a small number of fishermen, who live, with their families, in huts, or hamlets, on the island. They are an extremely simple people. Parties from Edinburgh and other places sometimes visit this island and its primitive inhabitants, whose ways and manners are so great a novelty to the inhabitants of a great city. The minister of Pittenweem goes once a year to exhort the people, and to perform the rites of marriage and baptism. He prays and delivers a discourse to them, standing at the back of a chair. His small, simple, and modest audience, do not look at him in the face, but turn about their backs, and in this position listen to what he says with the most reverend attention.

The Bass is a rocky island or rock covered here and there with turf, of a most stupendous height. On the south side the summit it appears in the shape of

a cone, but towards the north it overhangs the sea in a fearful manner. This is the capital of the solan geese in those parts. They have other places of resort; but the Bass is their capital.

Having passed the night at Pittenween, I went on next morning to western and eastern Anstruther, where there is a little trade, and from Kilrenny to Crail. Between eastern Anstruther, or, as it is pronounced in the country, Enstor, and Crail, the aspect of the country, no longer sheltered by hills or rising ground on any side, but falling into the German ocean, becomes bleak and bare: though the soil, if I may judge from the appearance of the standing crops, is far from being unfertile. It is a fine black mould, and manured by sea-weed: though, as you recede from the margin of the sea, it degenerates into a cold and wet clay, on which they say, the sea-weed has not so powerful and beneficial an operation. I was very much surprised to find that there was not in the parish of Crail any farmer skilful enough to apply the means for the amelioration of this clayey and consequently stiff and cold soil, which nature presents to their hands in the greatest and inexhaustible abundance. This is no other than the sand intermixed with sea-shells, which is to be found, at least, in creeks, here and there, even where the coast in general is bold and rocky. This would open and pulverize the clay; as clay, on the contrary, properly distributed or spread, consolidates soils composed of very light and inert vegetable matter.

The few trees and hedges that are to be seen on this promontory are raised with much difficulty,

and have a stunted appearance. They may, however, be raised, even to a considerable size, by planting them very thick at first, and thinning them gradually as they grow up. In this manner, Sir John Anstruther has trained up a grove of pretty thriving firs, at his charming villa, near the Elie.

The town of Crail consists of two parallel streets, extending east and west along the shore, with some wynds, or allies, running between them. It has a decayed, though not ruinous, and antique appearance. It is, indeed, of great antiquity; for we find it mentioned by historians so early as the middle of the ninth century. It received a charter from king Robert Bruce, which was confirmed by new grants from Robert II. Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. In the beginning of the eighteenth, that is, the last century, it was the great rendezvous for the herring fishery, and was then in a flourishing condition, and its population amounted to more than 3000.

But, for the last fifty years it has, with the fishery, gradually declined, insomuch, that its population, at present, does not exceed 1300. There is still a considerable number of fishing boats here; but the great support of the town now is, not the sea, but the land, which is extended on every side where there is land, a great way in level and arable plains, all in a tolerable state of cultivation, still improving. Besides the parts occupied by farmers, residing on the spot, there are many other lots in the hands of the townspeople. And, it is a sight somewhat singular, to see loads of corn and hay, and cattle, and horses, passing through the streets to the barns, stables, and yards behind, or otherwise adjoining to their dwel-

ling-houses. If Crail was of magnitude enough for the denomination, this might well be called *Rus in Urbe.*

The farmers, and consequently the landholders of Crail, and the adjoining parishes, have already derived immense advantages from the opening of the canal between the Forth and the Clyde. Before this took place, they could not find a ready and good market for what corn they raised, beyond what was required for home consumption. In 1766, the professor of church history at St. Andrews, whose benefice must now be by much the best ecclesiastical living in Scotland, as it was originally calculated, in the beginning of the last century, at near 200l. per annum,* and to be paid wholly in grain, was obliged to sell his beer, at six shillings and eight-pence per boll. The farmers were not bound to deliver the grain at any other place than the shore of St. Andrews. This, indeed, would have been an excellent mart in former times: but by this time there was only one solitary and small vessel belonging to St. Andrews, and that chiefly employed in the smuggling trade; so that the professor was obliged to let a miller, in the vicinity of Perth, have the grain, at his own price, on the condition of his sending a sloop for it, which he did.

In the prosperous days of Crail, besides an immense number of boats fitted out and manned by the fishermen, and others, belonging to the town, several hundreds resorted to it in the fishing season from dif-

* This benefice was created, about the time of the Union, in favour of a gentleman of the name of Haldane, of the family of Gleneaslas; at the time of not a little political importance.

ferent parts of the country, particularly from Angus, the Mearns, and Aberdeenshire. These were supplied with nets, chiefly by the inhabitants, who, for the use of them, received a certain proportion of what was caught. Immense quantities of herrings were used for home consumption, and for exportation. The drove, as it was called, or shoal, was seldom known to fail. The fisherman expected it as certainly as the farmer did his crop. Almost all the people in the place derived their support from this, with the other fisheries, or the fishery of what I believe was called white fish, as cod, haddock, whitings, skait, &c. and the trade and manufactures which were immediately connected with them.—"A sad change has now taken place. For half a century, the fisheries here have gradually been declining. The herrings, for several years past, have neither visited the coast in any considerable quantities, nor remained, as formerly, long enough to spawn: this is owing partly to unfavourable weather; partly to the shoals, being broken by the buss fishing on the north-east coast of Scotland; which was not the case during the flourishing period of the fishery here; partly to the encroachments of our neighbours, the Dutch, who occasionally sweep our coasts with a fleet of nets, extended at no greater distance than two or three leagues from the shore; and partly, perhaps, to the industry of man having thinned this species of fish. Immense quantities have of late years been killed upon the coasts of Sweden and Norway. To the circumstance of the herrings not having spawned their young here, we are, perhaps, to ascribe the want of haddocks, which formerly used to be caught

here in great quantities."—Such is the account given of the desertion of the coast of Fife by the herrings, by the Rev. Mr. Bell, in his report to Sir John Sinclair.

When inquiry is made into the cause or origin of any appearance, it is seldom accounted for to our satisfaction, unless by one cause, of itself adequate to the effect, and well known to exist in nature. Where recourse is had to a variety of concurring circumstances, or causes, our satisfaction is seldom complete. But far the greater part of the causes alleged, or supposed to be probable by the worthy and inquisitive minister of Crail, though evidently a man of good parts, as well as of observation, are wholly to be set aside: for they existed even at the time when herrings resorted to the coast of Fife in great abundance; the weather was then, as now, sometimes unfavourable; the Dutch occasionally fished very near our shores; and the Swedes and Norwegians in the numerous inlets on their coasts, so favourable to the fishery, have at all times been great and successful fishers. The coasts of Norway, if not the native country of herrings, are at least very near it, and invite the droves on the outset of their migrations. They form a great, perhaps the greatest, part of the food of the common people: such, for centuries, has been their abundance, and with such facility are they caught in the numerous, and narrow bays, or coves, with which the Norwegian coast is every where deeply indented. The cod, ling, and torsk, and, I believe, one or two other species of fishes, follow them thither to feed upon their spawn, and are also taken in prodigious numbers.

On the coast of Norway, near 200,000 people are maintained by the herring and other fisheries. This coast, extending above 300 leagues, as far as Cape North, beyond the 71 degree of N. latitude, is studded with a multitude of small islands, affording habitations to fishermen, as well as pasture for a few cattle. The coast of Sweden, too, has always invited the herrings; and the flourishing state of Gottenburgh is not more owing to its East India trade, than to the herring fishery. It is the low price at which herrings are furnished by the Norwegians and Swedes, that has formed the principal discouragement to the British fisheries.

But, if the great fishers of herrings have been for centuries, as now, the Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, and Dutch, and if they are not sensible, and I never heard that they were, of any lack of herrings; nay, if it is certain, that the shoals of herrings on the coast of Norway, for several years back, have been prodigious—if those great fishing nations have fished for so many centuries, and still find the herrings as abundant as ever, it is not to be thought that the non-appearance of this fish, in the usual quantities on the coast of Fife, is at all to be ascribed to the industry of men in thinning them,—nor can it be thought that the frozen ocean, and north seas, have been hitherto very sensibly drained by all the efforts of the society for promoting the British fisheries. This worthy and laudable society have made roads, purchased land, and offered permanent domicilia or habitations to fishermen; they have built or improved harbours, and established school-masters, surgeons, and other office bearers, but they cannot infuse, at once, into

Celts, or Highlanders, that patient and persevering industry, which distinguishes the nations of Scandinavian, or Gothic, and German origin.

It is true, that there are certain species of animals that have been thinned by the industry of man on land, such as lions, tygers, bears, wolves, foxes, &c. nay, it is by the industry of man, that whole species of carnivorous and destructive animals, such as the mammuth, have probably been extinguished. But these are only very few in number; and as nothing —no, not so much as a drop in the bucket, to the swarms of herrings which issue in myriads on myriads, from the seas around the pole. As well might human industry attempt by art to thin the musquitoes, and other insects, that float in the atmosphere in the summer season, and torment the Laplanders, and other nations within the arctic circle, as to thin the scaly tribes that breed in the northern ocean. The only reason, therefore, given by Mr. Bell, for the desertion of Fife, and, I suppose, he may mean the vicinal coasts of Lothian and Angus, in question, at all plausible, is, the buss fishing, that has been of late years established on the north-east point of Scotland: by which buss fishing the shoals in their southward course is broken. But the mere breaking of the shoals would not account for the desertion. If any part of a swarm of locusts or ants, or other insects or reptiles, be interrupted or stopped, by any obstacle, in their progress, the other parts, or, I shall say columns or divisions, go on without them. Undoubtedly the case is the same with the shoals of herrings. The whole shoal is neither stopped nor turned off in any other direction by a number of

busses breaking through the main body: and it is, comparatively, but a small part of the shoal that falls into their nets. There is nothing in Mr. Bell's account of the matter in question, that appears at all satisfactory. That the herrings are very capricious in their movements, that is, that they are determined in their movements by circumstances, or causes beyond our knowledge, is certain; and this is all that we know for certain of the matter.

It has been noticed, that herrings are most disposed to resort to those bays, lochs or lakes, and creeks, and channels, where there is the greatest abundance of *alga marina*, or sea-weed: and that they, of course, leave or shun the shores where the sea-weed is the most carefully cut away for the making of kelp: whether this covering affords convenient shelter for their spawn, or that it contributes in any way to their hinderance. It is conjectured, that there may possibly be some small and invisible insects attached to the alga marina, which may afford nourishment to the herrings. Certainly, if this fish requires any other nourishment, as we may presume it does, than mere sea-water, impregnated, perhaps, with other substances, it must be extremely delicate and fine; for there is nothing to be discovered in the stomach of the herring. This conjecture, concerning the nakedness or the covering of marine rocks, repelling or inviting the approach of the herrings, has been thrown out only lately. It certainly merits attention; and farther observation, will, sooner or later, ascertain the truth on this subject. It may, perhaps, one day become a question, whether

the nation should sacrifice the kelp to the herrings, or the herrings to the kelp.

The herrings and the haddocks, pursuing their spawn, will, no doubt, return to the East Nook by and by; just as they do to lochs occasionally deserted in the islands, and on the west coast of the Highlands. But it does not appear that any abundance of herrings, or other fish, on our coasts, has at any period excited a due and correspondent spirit of industry in fishing: though it be certain that the Scottish fisheries, as above observed, were in a much more prosperous condition, in former, than in present, or even recent times.

James III. who, with many failings, was very far from being inattentive to arts and industry, endeavoured to rouse a spirit of fishing, by an act of his third parliament, which compelled "certain lords, spiritual and temporal, and burrows, to make ships, barges, and boats, with nets, and other pertinents for fishing. That the same should be made in each burrow, in number, according to the substance of each burrow, and the least of them to be of twenty tons; and that all idle men be compelled by the sheriff's in the county to go on-board the same." Various attempts have been made since, for securing to ourselves

> ——————"The glittering finny race,
> That crowd our friths, and swarm upon our shores."

It is to an attempt of this kind, by a committee of fisheries, of the House of Commons, that Thom-

son, the poet, alludes to, in the lines now quoted. As king James III. attempted to send his subjects a fishing, by force, so George II. endeavoured to allure them to this species of industry, by favour. Bounties were allowed, first of thirty shillings per ton, to every buss of seventy tons and upwards, and afterwards of fifty shillings per ton, to be paid to such adventurers as were entitled to it, and should claim it at the place of rendezvous. But it soon appeared that, a great many of the claimants fished for the bounties, more than for the herrings. They presented their vessels of sufficient burthen, but imperfectly equipped, in all respects; and they made not any great efforts in the way of fishing, but soon retired into port with their bounties. Thus the Highlanders, being compelled to lay aside the kilt, or philibeg, after 1745, and to have each man a pair of breeches, provided themselves with breeches, though they did not always wear them, but used the old kilt at home, and when they went abroad, carried their breeches, swung over a stick, resting on their shoulders.

It is remarkable, that there is seldom any thing in the whole circle of human industry, or economy, that ever rises to great magnitude, or extent, that does not derive its origin from a small, and almost imperceptible beginning. The Roman empire, undoubtedly the greatest recorded in history, if we measure greatness by its extent, multiplied into its duration, arose out of a handful of robbers, perched on a few contiguous heights, little better than Primrose Hill, in the vicinity of London. The kingdom of Italy, established in all the power, pomp, and

magnificence of Buonaparte, will never rise to the grandeur of antient Rome. The most flourishing states and towns are not always, nor very often, those that have been planned before-hand. The city of Washington, in Virginia, though situated so happily and so nobly, may never, and certainly will not, in the course of many years, equal that of Boston, which, to use the words of Sir William Temple, speaking of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, "was brought forth with violent throes, and nursed with hard fare." Great empires, states, cities, towns, and other societies, like the "kingdom of heaven, may be compared to a grain of mustard-seed, which, indeed, is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

About twenty years ago, a worthy and bookish gentleman, of a projecting turn, who was in the habit of proposing new schemes of improvement, as well as new subjects of taxation to government, wrote a pamphlet, or rather a little book, to shew, that the best way to promote the fisheries on the Highland coasts would be, to build towns there. He had been abroad, and observed, that even where the soil was very poor, and the country hilly, it might be in a very flourishing state, if it had only cities and towns; as for example, the republic of Genoa. Therefore he advised us, immediately, to set about the building of villages and towns, on the coasts of the western Highlands and islands. He was for beginning, not with the egg, but with the pullet. He observed what great things Frederick II.

of Prussia had done, by laying out millions in the colonization and improvement of his country; and advised, that we, in like manner, should spare no expense, in order to encourage the fisheries by building towns. The government was ready enough, perhaps, to snap at some of this sanguine projector's taxes; but it is superfluous to say, that they did not adopt his plan for the encouragement of the fisheries. Magnificent projects of the same kind were also recommended by Mr. Knox and Dr. Anderson. These gentlemen do not seem to be duly sensible of the fact just stated; that in commerce, as in empire, great effects, or events, usually spring, not from magnificent systems formed *a priori*, but from origins small and almost imperceptible. Yet, without a ready market, a market both ready and near at hand, it is not to be expected, that men, habituated to sloth, and that would prefer the pastoral, or even the military life, to one of industry, should betake themselves to the rough industry of fishermen. Here the advocates for towns are right.

The fact is, that different branches of industry in a country take root, and spring up together. They foster and cherish one another; as large and thick plantations of trees will grow, where one or two, or a very few, will not. The fisheries on the Highland shores, without any other encouragement than that of the removal of insurmountable obstacles, whereof the want of salt is the chief, will increase with increasing manufactures and commerce; never, I fear, without them.

When the towns on the coast of Fife, from Stirling to Crail, were in a flourishing state, the fisheries,

on that coast, were in a flourishing state also. The great subject of industry with these towns, was the fisheries which they prosecuted with vigour, as far as Iceland, till the time of the union. Then the seat of government was translated, as the person of the king had been a century before, from Edinburgh to London. This, of itself, had, no doubt, a tendency to relax the spring of industry and enterprize on the shores of Fife; while restrictions on trade with France, and a participation in the colonial trade of England, gradually transferred the capital enterprize and general industry, of trading people from the Forth to the Clyde. The progress of general improvement, and particularly the equilibrium effected, in some measure, between the Clyde and Forth, by means of the canal, have somewhat refreshed and revived the coast of Fife; which, at the present moment, exhibits many auspicious presages of returning industry and enterprize. In proportion as these revive, the fishery will be revived also. In like manner, on the western coasts of Argyleshire and Rossshire, with the adjacent islands, the fisheries will grow up with growing manufactures and manufacturing villages, and towns flourishing in both manufactures and commerce. But nothing is to be expected from the assignment of lots of land for building a house on it, with a garden, and a few acres of land, though at a very small rent, and next to nothing. Perhaps some Highlanders may be induced to occupy the tenements; but, after all, will they, in the present desolate and dreary state of the country, pursue with hardy industry the business of fishers? We may offer houses to Highlanders on the sea coast, and even, by

an act of parliament, force them to accept them; but I am afraid with no better success than that of the bounties on the busses, and penalties on the want of breeches.

On the forfeited estate of Perth, in Scotland, between Crief and Muthel, and near Cupar, in Angus, a great number of houses were built for the reception of old soldiers, with ground for a garden, and some acres of land, all which was to be gratuitous and free to them and their posterity. A small sum of money was also allowed them for purchasing a cow, seed corn, and some furniture. With this encouragement, it was thought, industrious men, particularly such as knew any craft, as weavers, shoemakers, carpenters, and so on, might live very comfortably, and in the process of time add very considerably to the population of the country. Old or disbanded soldiers, after the peace of 1763, were not wanting to take possession of the tenements, and the money for enabling them to begin their improvements. But the money was soon spent, the fields neglected, and both houses and land for the most part deserted. Even sober and industrious men found it more for their interest to repair to manufacturing towns or their vicinity, such as Glasgow and Perth, than to remain on their new possessions rent-free.

If any thing effectual can be done for accelerating the natural progress of the fisheries, besides that of general improvement, capitals, and a spirit of mercantile enterprize, it is, perhaps, the establishment of Danish and Dutch colonies of fishers on different parts of our coasts. While the other fisheries on the coast of Fife have languished, decay-

ed, and in some instances died away altogether, the Danish colony of fishers, at Buckhaven, still flourishes, and many of them are very rich; but so inscrutable are the roots, the fibres, or embryos, of successful business, that it cannot be affirmed with certainty, that if colonies could be drawn from Norway or Holland, and settled comfortably, with all things necessary for beginning business at the most convenient fishing stations, they would be as industrious, as steady, and as successful, as the fishers of Buckhaven, driven, retained, and naturalized in our country by the hand of Fortune.

Though at Crail I found but little of either foreign or domestic trade, I could perceive that it was not a little enlivened by the business of smuggling, for which its advanced position on the promontory that terminates this part of the peninsula is very favourable. The citizen farmers conceal the casks in their barns, and sometimes in their ricks, or stacks, as they call them, of corn; and there is always plenty of carts at hand to move the goods to other places in the night time. They say, that when a few casks of geneva or brandy are put into the midst of a rick of corn, the smell drives away the mice. In like manner they drive away the mice from barns; but rats, they say, have no dislike to spirits, but are rather fond of them.

Some of the fishers here, I found, had been lately much alarmed by a wonderful skate they had caught —a lusus naturæ. This fish, having been brought on shore, lay quiet; but when they began to cut it, and prepare it for the market, it leaped from the table, bit and wounded many of them, and the pieces they had cut off leaped from place to place into the

street. Amazement and terror seized every beholder, and they ran from it; but one of them, who was an elder of the kirk, venturing to return, the rest in crowds followed him. At length they collected the pieces, which, by being put together, seemed to collect new life; and, having provided a decent coffin, they buried the fish, though not in the church-yard, yet as near the church-yard-wall as possible. As it was enormously large, they all supposed that it had fed upon some human body at the bottom of the sea, and had, with the flesh, imbibed some part of the nature and feelings of man.

There are three of the natives or inhabitants of Crail celebrated in history and poetry: these are, archbishop Sharp, Clerk Dishington, described in the song of *Igo and Ago*, and Maggy Lauder, a famous courtezan of those times, and the subject of the merry Scotch ballad—

"Wha wad nae be in love wi bonny Maggy Lauder, &c."

In strolling through the town, I was shewn, without inquiring, the house where Maggy lived with her mother. It is at present, though of an old and decayed appearance, inhabited by a shoemaker.

Before the union of the crowns and kingdoms, Fife appears to have been the heartiest and happiest part of Scotland: they had abundance of coals, fish, flesh, meal, and malt, without any tax. Their bill of fare at their merry meetings is faithfully and minutely described in the ballad of—

"Fye, let us all to the bridal,
For there will be tilting there, &c.

Even at home, and when there was no feast, they never wanted

A gude salt herring to relish a cog of gude ale.

The humours and the fare at a Fifan wedding of the sixteenth century are finely described in the poem of Christ's Kirk on the Green, which was composed beyond all doubt by King James V. though Lord Heiles, from some far-fetched reasons, and contrary to the commonly received opinion, is inclined to ascribe it rather to James I. The wedding to which the poem refers was solemnized at or near the village of Leslie, at present a very populous and thriving one, on the Leven, within a few miles of Falkland, where the king usually resided. The king, according to tradition, went to this wedding in disguise, under which he was wont to conceal himself in the prosecution of low amours, to which he was much addicted. There are several other Scottish songs, either of a merry or of an amorous complexion, or both, ascribed to this monarch in the earlier and happier part of his life. He died indeed of melancholy, but this is far from being a proof that he wanted sensibility and gaiety of disposition.

The circumstance of the Scottish kings, from the times of Malcolm III. to those of James VI. residing so much at Dumfermline and at Falkland, conspired with the natural advantages of Fife to hilarity and contentment. As it had every thing within itself that could be wanted for subsistence, and, at that time, for comfort, and is

divided from the rest of Scotland by the Friths of the Forth and the Tay, and the Aichill hills stretching from south-west to north-east between them, it obtained the common appellation, which it still retains among the common people of the kingdom of Fife.

About two miles east from Crail is Fifeness, the cape in which the promontory terminates. There is a small village here, where there are a few boats in which they sometimes go a fishing. But their principal use is to be subservient to the smugglers. The village depends chiefly on the labour and manufactures connected with farming and farmsteads. To a mind delighting in the melancholy grandeur of interminate prospects, Fifeness must appear a charming spot. From this point the naked eye carries your view along the coasts of Angus and Mearns on the one hand, and as far as St. Abb's Head, in Berwickshire; but, if a tower was built here by the very opulent proprietors only as high as that of Scotstarvet, on the high ground between Cupar and Falkland, the antient seat of their family, with the aid of a glass they might see as far as the spur of the Grampians, bordering Aberdeenshire.

From Peterhead, the sea-coast bends gradually inward into St. Andrews' Bay, and from thence outward across the mouth of the Frith of Forth to the promontory in Berwickshire. It is this great amphitheatre that formed the principal scene of Scottish navigation: the most prosperous period of which was perhaps the reign of James IV. when the naval power of Scotland very materially influenced the state of Europe, and that of James V. The trading ships

were protected by a fleet; and this was occasionally reinforced by presents of ships of war from France; between which and Scotland the antient bonds of amity and alliance were now drawn closer than ever.

A splendid and gay proof and instance of this connection was exhibited at Fifeness. In the spring of 1538, a French princess, Mary of Guise, duchess dowager of Longueville, married to James V. by proxy, and escorted to Scotland by the admiral of France with a considerable squadron, landed at Fifeness, from whence she was conducted to the king, then residing in the castle at St. Andrews.

In the courtship or negociation that led to this marriage, James had a rival in the person of his maternal uncle, Henry VIII. of England, who had been informed that Mary was both of a goodly stature and a great beauty, but not before a contract of marriage had been ratified between her and the young king of Scotland. It was a matter of not a little deliberation at the court of France, whether, after all that had passed, the contract should not be set aside, and the duchess bestowed on the more powerful king of England. And it has been said, that it was the mediations, and the entreaties of the lady herself chiefly, that determined the generous and gallant Francis to abide by the contract with James. Certain it is, that Henry not only insisted on having this lady for his wife, but even threw out some menaces against Francis, because he would not comply with this unreasonable request. It was for this reason that the princess was escorted to the coast of Fife by a strong squadron.

There has, in all centuries and ages, been a strong propensity to exhibit the passions and the fortunes of the great under the form of pastorals—to bring them down to the simpilcity, ease, and familiarity of a country life. It was on the occasion of the preference supposed to have been given by the French princess to James before his uncle, the powerful Henry VIII. the sovereign of a great and opulent kingdom, that the song of "The Boatman" was composed:

Ye gales that gently wave the sea,
And please the canny boatman;
Bear me from hence, or bring to me,
My brave, my bonny Scotsman.

In haly bands we joined our hands,
Yet may not this discover,
While parents rate a large estate
Before a faithful lover.

But I lere chuse in highland glens,
To tend the kid and the goat man,
Than ever for sic little ends,
Forsake my bonny Scotsman, &c. &c.

From Crail to St. Andrews the prospect is extensively variegated and pretty; and here, as well as all along the other parts of the coast of Fife, I was glad to find the farms, in general, so neatly inclosed and so well cultivated.

St. Andrews, once the seat of the metropolitan bishop of Scotland, and even since the abolition of episcopacy, still famous for its university, exhibits at a distance, by its large extent, and its remaining

steeples, turrets, and spires, an appearance of magnificence and grandeur. But, on a near approach, the general aspect of the shore, the priory, and other antient monasteries, the cathedral church, the castle, the residence of the archbishops, and not unfrequently of the kings, the city in every quarter, in some of which the streets are grown over with grass, and solid turf, and one whole and very long street levelled with the ground; and, I am sorry to say, even of the colleges, suggests nothing but the melancholy idea of former magnificence and grandeur now in ruins. There was nothing in all this at all surprising to me, as I had been more than twenty years ago for many years a student, both at the Philosophy and Divinity College of St. Andrews, except the present state of the university, which has now assumed an air and tone, completely in unison with the general dreary, desolate, and decayed condition, of that antient, large, and once flourishing city. On inquiring into the number of students, and the changes that had taken place in the different chairs, the reflection that first occurred was the marked contrast between the state of the university, under the inspection of the late chancellor, Thomas, earl of Kinnoull, and under the present chancellor, the lord viscount Melville. During the subsistence of episcopacy in Scotland, the archbishop was the over-lord of the university, and held visitations of the university once in every two or three years, and also of the different colleges. For though all the colleges, forming the university, were, and are still, in many respects, most intimately connected in patronage and jurisdiction, they enjoyed, as they do

now, powers or prerogatives peculiar to each. Upon the abolition of episcopacy, the crown came in place of the archbishop, and they exercise the same powers as he did, as often as may be judged proper. I believe there has not been any visitation of the university here, since the establishment of presbytery in Scotland. Visitors would find it here just as it was in "the days of Noe—men, eating and drinking, and marrying, and giving in marriage."

The colleges here were once of great celebrity, and even about twenty years ago, or somewhat less, not a little flourishing. But since the professorships of the united college have fallen under the powers and almost become hereditary in one family, they are too often bestowed on men destitute of parts and accomplishments suitable to their important charge. There is, indeed, some probability, that the professorships will by and by become, what they nearly are already, mere sinecures. The only ground of consolation and hope, for those who could wish the university of St. Andrews to flourish, is, that a man of genius and learning may yet be admitted into that body; provided that he be careful to make a prudent marriage. But a kind of lethargy prevents the professors from exerting, as formerly, the talents and virtues they possess. It is through a negligence on the part of the present chancellor, or, as some have supposed, a collusion between him and the leading members, that things have been permitted to come to the present pass. The university has a great sway in the royal burgh or city of St. Andrews, and some influence too in the county. A reverend principal of one of the colleges, on the occasion of

chusing a knight of the shire for Fife, did not hesitate, in order to please the chancellor of the university, it was thought, to accept of a fictitious qualification, and to make use of his nominal or fictitious vote on the occasion of a certain general election.—It is well known that the chancellor, Mr. Henry Dundas, now lord Melville, is, or rather perhaps *was* (for that is the tense in which we must now speak of this statesman) a great advocate for war and conquest, and also for stretching the prerogatives of the crown, and bridling with great rigour, not to say encroaching on, the liberties of the people.

Even in the pulpit, the principal seems to have paid court to the great man. In a sermon, preached on a public occasion, at the synod of Fife, in the end of 1792, his text was, "Happy art thou, O Israel! Who is like unto thee, O people, saved by the Lord." The preacher, adopting the words of Moses (as if the prophet were speaking, not to the Hebrews, but to Englishmen and Scotchmen) maintains that WE are a people saved by the Lord—that WE are a happy people*—and that there is none like us. The principal is of opinion, not only that our political constitution is at present the best that is known, but that it is continually receiving improvements, which, without violence or danger, arise insensibly from the diffusion of enlightened and liberal views, to augment or secure the happiness of the community.—Britain has risen to be one powerful state, united under the same government, and availing itself, by

* Groaning under endless taxes, and alarmed at the progress of an influence that threatens our political freedom.

this union, of all the advantages of its situation for internal security, and FOR CONQUEST.* Certes there is a great difference of sentiment between George Hill, and another great preacher, who formerly held forth at St. Andrews, namely, John Knox. Had John heard George, he would have told him to his face, on the spot, and before the whole congregation, that to stir up ideas of wordly ambition and war, was not in the just strain of evangelical preaching: not in the meek and benign spirit of the gospel. This dextrous divine lately published a very loyal sermon, inculcating subordination, and quiet and thankful submission to government. He printed an immense impression; and represented to Mr. Dundas the good and great effects that might reasonably be expected from a general dissemination of his sermon over the whole kingdom. Some thousands of copies were paid for by the public money; and parcels of these were sent to the ministers of parishes, and sheriffs of counties; the expense of carriage being an additional charge. All the London artifices of authorship and book-making are nothing to this!

Among the professors who flourished before what may be called the present dynasty of St. Andrews, were, principal Tulideph; Dr. Simson, brother to the celebrated professor of Glasgow, and as nearly related by genius as by blood; Mr. David Gregory, professor of mathematics; Dr. Robert Watson, professor of logic and rhetoric; Dr. Wilkie, professor of natural philosophy, author of the Epigoniad; and some other professors, who were both admirably well

* Sermons by George Hill, D. D. &c. p. 398.

qualified to fill their stations, and distinguished by a professional zeal, or what was called by the celebrated principal Robertson, the historian, in allusion to them, an academical ardour.

William, duke of Cumberland, chancellor of the university of St. Andrews, died in 1767. Several persons in high political situations were proposed, by different members of the university, for his successor: but a considerable majority of voices declared in favour of "Thomas, earl of Kinnoull, *after* he had retired from an important and honourable political life; for no other reason than that he was an eminent patron and pattern of religion, and private as well as public virtue; that he inherited all that love and respect for learning, which distinguished his father, one of the most accomplished noblemen of the court of George II. and his maternal grandfather, the illustrious Robert, earl of Oxford; and, that he was the worthy representative of one of the noblest races in Europe."* This excellent nobleman instituted prizes for every class of students in the colleges—paid them an annual visit—distributed the prizes with his own hands—took great notice of the most distinguished scholars, and, where patronage was needed, used all the means in his power for promoting their fortune. The antient celebrity of the university of St. Andrews was, in a great measure, revived. The number of students amounted to one hundred and fifty, and upwards. Not a few families of distinction came to reside in St. Andrews, for the laudable purpose of having their sons educated at the university; thus

* History of Europe, Dodsley's Annual Register, 1801, p. 137.

uniting the advantages of a public and a private education.

While the professors discharged their duty with equal ability, skill, and alacrity, there was an excellent public library; for the maintenance and increase of which there was ample provision. The books that had been placed in different libraries were brought together, and properly disposed in one spacious and elegant hall, which was built, or rebuilt, with improvements, for the purpose. The books were not chained, as some books are in the English universities, to benches or stalls; nor was it necessary to consult or peruse them on the spot. The students were permitted to carry them to their own chambers. The professors did not confine themselves to the reading of lectures once or twice a week; they taught every day; and some of them twice: and the students were called on to give an account of the lectures or lessons they had received on the day preceding the meeting, as in common schools. This is the custom in all the Scotch universities. It is certainly a very good one. The youth are thus incited to study by a principle of emulation, and the shame of appearing dull or stupid. In all the classes, the mathematical and natural philosophy classes excepted, the lectures commenced with prayer.

At the same time, the strictest discipline was maintained. To this, the earl of Kinnoull, the chancellor, was particularly attentive. In an excellent speech, which he made in answer to an inaugural oration, by the reverend professor Brown, at that time the rector, when he was first received as chancellor, he declared, among other particulars, that he

conceived it to be his duty to enforce the strictest discipline and observance of morality and religion. For gross offences against morality, several young men of distinguished and opulent families were expelled, or, as the phrase was, extruded from the university.

The colleges in the university of St. Andrews, the oldest in Scotland, were originally three; namely, St. Salvator's, founded by James Kennedy, archbishop of St. Andrews, in the year 1458; St. Leonard's College, founded by prior Hepburn, in 1512; and St. Mary's, founded by bishop John Hamilton, in the year 1552. In each of these colleges lectures were given in theology, as well as in philosophy and languages; but in the reign of James VI. 1579, under the direction of the celebrated George Buchannan, who was at the time, or certainly had been, himself, one of the professors, or regents, as they were then called, of St. Leonard's, the university was new modelled. St. Mary's College was appropriated to the study of theology. It is, therefore, distinguished by the name of the Divinity College, and otherwise the New College. In the year 1747, on a petition from the principals or provosts of St. Salvator's and St. Leonard's, the British parliament united these two into one society, under the designation of the United College, but commonly called the Philosophy College.

These two colleges, the Divinity College and the United College, are wholly independent of each other in their revenue and discipline, though there be certain points, as in certain acts of patronage, the election of a rector, and of a chancellor of the

university, the conferring of degrees, correspondence with foreign academies, and on occasion, with princes who have sometimes sent them presents, &c. in which the university acts as one body. On such occasions, they hold what they call university meetings.

St. Salvator's College is a spacious square, but of which one side has fallen to ruin, and not been rebuilt, with a garden on the north side; the wall on which side is stretched in a parallel line, and within about two hundred feet of a precipitous rock, lashed by the waves of the German Ocean; the spray or foam of which is often wafted by the north wind, and falls like snow on this college and the whole town of St. Andrews, where it will lie for some time even in summer. A colder and bleaker situation can scarcely be imagined. In the college garden some vegetables are raised for the use of the kitchen; but not a tree, and scarcely a shrub, will grow so near and so much under the influence of the sea-breezes in that part of this island.

St. Leonard's College, of which the greater part of the buildings is still standing, though mostly in a ruinous condition, was pleasantly situated in the south-east quarter of the town, in a sheltered, warm, and pleasing aspect, where there are some planes, ashes, and elms, of a very large size; and through the college garden there runs a copious stream of water. Yet at the union of the colleges the bleakness of St. Salvator's was preferred to the amenity of St. Leonard's. St. Salvator's was repaired and somewhat extended: St. Leonard's was abandoned, and suffer-

ed to go to ruin. This astonishing preference was owing to no better cause than trifling interests and prejudices of a local nature. Principal Tulideph, and some of the professors of St. Salvator's, whose houses were near it, had gained an ascendency over those of St. Leonard's, and took the lead in the whole measure of the union of the colleges, of which they were the movers. Principal Tulideph, who, in the earlier part of his life, had served as an officer in the Swedish army, was the great leader of the moderate party, as Dr. Robertson became afterwards in the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, and maintained the legal connection between the church and state, and the subordination of the former in matters of external order to the latter; which the zealots controverted and attempted to destroy, maintaining the tenets that prevailed on that subject in the times of John Knox and the Lords of the Congregation. This, at that time, was an important service to government.

It happened also at the time of the union of the colleges, that several of the regents, or professors, of St. Leonards, were superannuated, and one or two of them in a state of dotage.* There was nothing

* Many pleasant stories are told of one of these, regent Rymer, after he had attained nearly to the age of ninety, in St. Andrews, among the old people, at this day. For example: When some one proposed, at the college table, to mix some common table beer and some very strong ale together, Mr. Rymer approved the proposal, but began to deliberate whether they should pour the table beer into the ale, or the ale into the table beer. It was readily observed that it was all one and the same thing; but the professor said, "No; for if the small beer should be poured into the ale it

in which St. Salvator's possessed any superiority over St. Leonard's but a very fine chapel of beautiful Saracenic architecture, and a very lofty steeple with a finely-toned bell. About 1760, this chapel underwent a repair. The style of architecture was very properly preserved, though it was such as to occasion a very audible echo, insomuch that every word was repeated. It was proposed, for the prevention of this, to make some alterations in the structure of the chapel; but Dr. Simson, who was a man of great wit, as well as in many things quite a humourist, observed, that "a good tale was not the worse for being twice told:" some means were applied, though with little effect, for deadening the echo, but the form or architecture of the chapel was preserved entire.

In all the colleges, the gates were shut at ten o'clock at night; so that none of the students, without special permission from the principal, could go out after that hour, or be admitted till six o'clock next morning. The porters had it in strict charge to make a report to the principals of such students as, in defiance of the laws, which were read at the

would make the ale worse; but if the ale should be poured into the table beer, it would make the beer better." We may say of this what Lord Bacon says of poetry, that it was *science in a dream*.

Mr. Rymer one day observing a long ladder standing against a wall with cow dung on the top of it, exclaimed, "Bless me! how did the cow get up to the very top of the ladder?"

There was a large dog belonging to the porter, that sat like other dogs basking in the sun. When Mr. Rymer passed this animal, he would say, "Non studes ignave, non studes," It was then customary for the professors to speak to the students in Latin.

commencement of every session, to stay out all night. The greater part, or nearly the whole of the students, were then lodged in chambers, which they had gratis within the walls of the college. For the preservation of discipline and good order, other means were used besides those just mentioned. The masters, in their turns, weekly exercised the office of what was called HEBDOMADER. His business was to preside and say grace at the college table, and to go round and call at every different chamber at six o'clock in the morning, to see if the students had got up from bed, and between eight and nine at night to see if they were at home and properly employed. These morning and evening visits, or calls, were called Perlustrations, and the Hebdomader, in reference to this part of his office, the PERLUSTRATOR. At first, and till the union of the colleges, and some little time after, the morning were performed as regularly as the evening visits; but, in the progress of time and luxury, they were made very irregularly, at longer and shorter intervals, and at last wholly given up: but the evening perlustrations, while the earl of Kinnoull lived, were continued regularly.

Originally, the hour of dining was twelve o'clock, and that of supper six; these hours were changed, for first one, and then two, for dinner, and first seven, and then eight, for supper. In the different colleges there were, as there are still, not fewer than fifty scholarships, or, as they are called, bursaries. By some of these, according to the original establishment, the scholar was entitled not only to his board at the college table, but also to admission to the lectures or instructions of all the differen

masters without expense, though the masters at last demanded fees. By others, they had, besides these advantages, a sum of money, which was understood to defray other expenses, as books, clothes, washing, &c. There were others of the bursaries that consisted wholly in an annual sum of money, paid to the bearer by instalments at the beginning and the end of the sessions, and solely at his own disposal.

Besides the bursars, others were admitted to the college tables as boarders, at a rate so low, that it may appear in England, and in the present time, incredible. It was, for seven months in the year, only from nine to ten pounds, so lately as 1774. It was afterwards raised to twelve pounds.

On the land side of St. Andrews, where there was but a small population, considerably under three thousand, no trade, and where there was not any town whatever, nor even a village of any note nearer than eight or ten miles, provisions of all kinds were very cheap. The farms in its vicinity being moderate, the farmers were not above sending the produce of the land, as it were, by retail, and without a possibility of combination, to the weekly markets. The sea produced a great quantity and variety of fish at a very low price—a dozen of haddocks, for example, for two-pence halfpenny or three-pence, and other kinds of fish in proportion. It may also be mentioned on this head, that in the vicinity of St. Andrews, as in all the eastern parts of Fife towards the sea-shores, there are a great many rabbit warrens. The common price of a rabbit, exclusively of the skin, was

three-pence,* of a fowl five-pence, or at most six-pence, of a dozen of eggs two-pence. For beverage, the colleges made their own malt, and brewed their own beer, which was none of the weakest. Add to all this, that there being coal mines within two miles of St. Andrews, and labour very cheap, coals were to be had for what, in many parts of the kingdom, would be considered as next to nothing.

In the United or Philosophy College, there were two tables: the one for the bursars, or, as we would say in England, scholars on the foundation; the other for the young gentlemen that were boarders, and called, like all the students not bursars in the original institutions of the colleges, *extranei*, or strangers; and for a few of the bursars themselves, who, by the establishment, were entitled to seats there. Among the boarders were frequently young gentlemen of the first families, and sometimes young noblemen. The boarders had, not unfrequently, private tutors, who also were entertained at the college table.

In St. Mary's, or the Divinity College, there

* A furrier from London, not very many years ago, applied to Sir Robert Anstruther, of Balkaskie, in the EAST NOOK of FIFE, one of the most beautiful and plentiful districts in Britain, for a lease of his warren. Sir Robert expressed some disinclination to turn out his old tenant. The furrier politely requested to know whether he might ask what it fetched to the landlord a year. Sir Robert said, ten pounds. The Londoner immediately offered fifty. His offer was accepted, on the condition that a couple of rabbits should be presented every week for his table, which had always been customary, as the skins were not expected. The furrier, who made no account of the flesh, said, "O, for that matter, sir, you may have a cartful of rabbits whenever you please."

was only one table. There were not, after the fall of popery, any boarders: all who sat at the college table were bursars. The other students in divinity were lodged in the town; but as many as chose it had apartments in the college free of all expense, besides some trifling dues to the porter.

Breakfast, at the Divinity Colleges, and for the greater part that of the bursars in the Philosophy College, consisted in an allowance of bread and beer, carried between eight and nine o'clock to their respective apartments. At the bursar's table in the Philosophy College, they had, every day, boiled meat, and barley broth in which the meat was boiled, some vegetables, and a plentiful allowance of table beer, or rather ale. Sometimes instead of meat they had fish, and, once a week, eggs, salt butter, and cheese. For supper, they had again an allowance of bread and ale, but in somewhat larger quantities than at breakfast.

The boarders, with the bursars who had places at their table, had for breakfast, instead of bread and beer, hot rolls and milk. For dinner, besides boiled meat and barley broth, a roast of beef, mutton, pork, veal, fowls, or rabbits. Instead of broth, and the meat boiled in it, sometimes fish. For supper they had either broth with cold meat, or rice and milk, with some kind of roast. The dinners and suppers at the Divinity College were nearly the same with those of the best table at the Philosophy College. All the tables were most plentifully supplied. There was nothing like pinching or parsimony; there was great abundance. In the Philosophy College, both tables were kept in the

same hall, that both might be under the eye of the hepdomader. In the Divinity College, the students, in their turns, prayed; that is, did not read any form, but uttered premeditated prayers in the presbyterian fashion, evening and morning, in the common hall of the college. Before the prayer, a portion of the scriptures was read; after it, psalms were sung. After dinner and supper, in both colleges, a portion of the New Testament in Latin was read by one of the bursars, who was also precentor in the singing of psalms, with which the repast was concluded. The hebdomader, presiding at the tables, entered always into some useful and seasonable conversation with the private tutors, or some of the oldest students, the tendency of which always was, to communicate instruction, or to inspire and confirm pure, just, and noble moral sentiments. Among the masters distinguished for happy talents in this way, at the period alluded to, was professor, afterwards principal Watson, and in a style far superior to him, professor Wilkie, author of the Epigoniad. Bu even Wilkie, for a kind of dignified pleasantry, wit, and manly sense and observation on national affairs and the occurrences of the day, was inferior to principal Tulideph; who, though he was exempted by his office from the labour of acting as hebdomader, dined always at the college table, when he held, which he did generally once every month, what was called a common school. Common schools were held for the purpose of maintaining order and discipline. Dr. Simson, whose conversation was also so original, instructive, and pleasant, was attached as a profes-

sor to the university, but not to any of the colleges.

These meetings of the whole college were opened by the principal with a prayer in Latin. Delinquents were reprimanded, fined, and banished for a time, or utterly expelled from the college—*Extrusi sine spe redeundi.* The principal harangued the students on those occasions, on the importance of literature, science, and good morals. He made a point of inviting and entertaining at his house, once in every session, all the students of distinguished families: and also those who, though plebians by birth, distinguished themselves eminently by proficiency in their studies. The professors invited to their houses, once in each year or session, every student in their classes, of all ranks and capacities. On these occasions, they laid aside all magisterial dignity, and conversed in a polite, familiar, and easy manner.

The principal and professors of the Divinity College entertained every student at their houses once every session: the principal twice; once during the first month, and once during the last two or three weeks of the session. They also encouraged the students to call on them at their houses when they pleased, to state any difficulty that occurred either on the hearing of their own lectures, or in the course of their private reading—a course of which they took occasion to prescribe. The annual attendance at the colleges was not broken into different terms or sessions: there was one continuous session, which lasted in the Philosophy College for seven months, from the 21st of October to the 21st

of May; and in the Divinity College, from the 20th of November to the 20th of April. It was understood that not only there would be a saving of that expense, which is necessarily incurred in going home and returning two, three, or more times, at different terms, but that greater progress would be made by an uninterrupted course of study for seven months, than by study for an equal length of time at different periods. The only days of relaxation, besides Sundays, were, the first Monday of every month. Even Christmas was not a day of relaxation. In the kirk of Scotland there are not any festivals besides Sunday. Farther still, it was considered, that in the course of a vacation or recess of five continuous months, instead of a number of shorter vacations after shorter periods of attendance, the young men of fortune of the highest classes, from eighteen to twenty years of age, could not only make a tour with their tutors in Britain, but even make trips to the continent, and thus learn to intermix with study an acquaintance with the world. And it was, in fact, in such travels that the vacations were most commonly spent by those that could afford it.

By the original constitution, or laws and customs of the university of St. Andrews, provision was made, as in the education of youth among the antients, for certain gymnastic exercises. At the time when the university was founded, though the date of this was subsequent to the invention, and the incepient use of gunpowder; the great weapon of war among the Lowland Scots, as well as the English, was the bow and arrow; and archery was made an indis-

pensable article of education in Scotland from the days of James I. This accomplished and wise prince made an act, forbidding the favourite diversion of foot-ball, and substituting in its place that of shooting with bows and arrows. Every boy, when he came to the age of thirteen, was obliged at stated times to practise archery at certain bow-marks. It was accordingly, among the statutes of both St. Leonard's and St. Salvator's College, that an annual prize of a silver arrow should be given out of the public funds to the best marksman, on a competition in archery. In a little dell formed by some knolls, now about half a mile from the town, but formerly almost contiguous to a street now in ruins, butts were erected, and from time to time repaired. Seats were cut or carved in the green sward, on either side of the dell, opposite to the space between the butts, and rose, in different rows, above one another, like the benches in a theatre, or the gallery in the House of Commons. In this natural amphitheatre, the university and town of St. Andrews, gentlemen and ladies, high and low, witnessed the annual contest among the archers for the prize of the silver arrow, in the last week of the month of March. The youth who entered the lists were trained for the contest by shooting as often as they had leisure and inclination beforehand. When the day arrived for the trial, they appeared generally from the number of five or six to eight or ten, equipped in the antient Scottish dress; but their vests, which were short, like that of our highland regiments and light infantry, of different colours, according to the livery of their respective families, white, red, green,

yellow, and so on. These knights were attended, each with his armour bearer, carrying a quiver full of arrows. It will easily be imagined, that it was not among the poorer class of students, that candidates appeared for the prize of the silver arrow. In fact, though a silver arrow, and that a pretty massy one, was actually given to the victor, for more than two centuries, as the arrows so acquired, to this day, testify; yet it afterwards became customary, among other refinements in the progress of the human mind, for the victors, (not, we may presume, without the approbation, at least, of the regents, or masters, who had the management of the college funds,) instead of receiving a silver arrow, to affix a silver ball to what came to be called THE arrow, with their name, coat of arms, and the date of the year when the prize was obtained. All the other rival archers accompanied the victor to his lodgings; where, together with as many of his friends as he chose to invite, they were entertained with a cold collation. In a procession through the principal streets in the town, or rather the principal parts of these streets, in their way from the butts to the apartments of the victor, passing the houses of the principals, professors, and others, gentlemen, or ladies, to whom they were desirous of shewing a mark of respect, they let fly a volley of arrows; as soldiers of our times, on certain occasions, stand to their arms, or give a *feu de joie*. The day of shooting for the arrow was, of course, a great holiday.

The candidates for the honours of archery, assembled, about ten o'clock, at the dwelling house of the rector of the university, who, with the other pro-

fessors, marched before them to the butts; the maces of the university, and the silver arrow, and as many of the appended silver balls, as could be conveniently carried by one man, going before them. A new ball was hooked to a silver chain, attached to the arrow by the victor, in the course of what remained of the session. What has become of all these accumulated balls, is, I believe, not very generally or publicly known.

From this gymnasium, a sandy down, called by the Scotch, *Links*, above two miles in length, and about one in breadth, extends northward, where it is bounded by the river Eden, and stretching on the east, along the sea beach. On this plain, the students, and other gentlemen, both of St. Andrews and the vicinity, enjoy the amusing and salubrious exercise of *golf*. This somewhat resembles the English game of cricket, but is not near so violent. Small holes are dug at different intervals, from a quarter, to about half a mile each. The contest with the players, is, who shall drive the ball, with an instrument, they call a club, into the hole, at the fewest strokes. The ball is made of the sole leather, commonly used for shoes, stuffed with feathers. The club is a shaft about four feet long, fixed obliquely in a small head of hard wood, into which some lead is run for increasing its weight. There are four or five different kinds of clubs, corresponding to the position of the ball, or the nature of the ground on which it lies, even, hollow, declining, or perhaps a rut. When it happens to be in a rut, the club made use of has an iron head. The gentlemen golfers are dressed in the old Scottish dress, as well

as the archers, and are attended by a servant to carry their clubs. On observing how the ball lies, the first question is, what kind of club is to be used for striking it. If it lies advantageously on a level surface, the object is to strike it fairly, with great force, in the proper direction, and to send it as far as possible, leaving, of course, the surface or spot on which it may fall, merely to chance. If it lies in a difficult position, as in broken ground, the point aimed at, is, not only to drive it out of this, but to make it fall on even ground, and not again into some other crevice; for it must be observed, that the down is very frequently broken, and interspersed with such crevices, and in the winter season, in some places, with pools of water. To strike the ball, with the proper instrument, according to its position, to measure the force, applied according to the distance to which the ball is to be driven, requires great skill and address. And here, on the whole, rather in driving it on a long way, when it lies fair, by the application of the utmost strength, the excellency of the golf-player consults. The whole course for golfing, winding through the plain, is nearly three miles; so that the golfers, who traverse the whole forwards and backwards, walk over a space of six miles. But many of the golfers are content with a shorter course, and return on their steps, playing back all the way, at any of the other holes, or stages.

A passion for the game of golf is very prevalent over all Scotland, particularly on the east coast, where frequent and large flats, on the edge of the sea, present proper fields for that exercise. This

exercise, where there is so much walking, and so much scope for the exertion of both strength and mechanical skill, is certainly one of the best that has ever been known, at any time, or in any place; or, indeed, that can be well imagined. The Links of St. Andrews are thought to be the best field for a trial of skill in golfing, in Scotland. There are frequent golfing matches between the golfers of St. Andrews and those of Leith.

As the down or links presents so noble a field for what may be called pedestrian and manual exercise, on the left hand, so, on the right, the beach or strand, extending about a quarter of a mile farther to the north, exhibits a fine course for equestrian exercise. The sea, at full tide, comes to the verge, and sometimes, in spring tides, even makes irruptions into the down; but, at ebb, it recedes for about half a mile, or more, leaving an expanse of consolidated land, as smooth as glass. Here the equestrians gallop along on the side next the land, while the solitary student, conning his lesson, or task, walks near the edge of the water, picking up, now and then, a curious shell fish, or shell, and frequently recalling to mind Homer's description of the πολυφλοίσβοιο Θυλασσης.

From this general description of the university of St. Andrews, and some local circumstances with which it is connected, it abundantly appears, that this seminary, once famous, was admirably well adapted, in all essential respects, for the conduct of a learned and liberal education. And such it was certainly considered to have been for nearly thirty years back, from about 1790. The truth of what has been above related of families of distinction coming to reside

at St. Andrews, for the education of their sons, or of such families sending their sons, under the immediate care of private tutors, to the college and college table, might be exemplified, by a great number of instances. But I shall confine myself to one of each kind.

In 1760, the late earl of Buchan came, with his family, to St. Andrews, where he resided, for the education of his two youngest sons, the honourable Henry, and the honourable Thomas Erskine, now lord Erskine, till 1765. The present earl of Buchan, then lord Cardross, was on his travels. It will not be supposed, that Francis Charteris, now lord Elcho, is introduced in connection with the earl of Buchan, and the other two Erskines, by any other affinity, or association of ideas, than that of high rank, and far greater fortune. But this, for the present purpose, is sufficient. From 1762 to 1767, Mr. Charteris was a student at the United College, and was boarded with his tutor, Dr. Forrest, afterwards one of the professors, at the college table. It was not, by any means, from the consideration of free lodgings, and cheap board, that Mr. Charteris was sent to St. Andrews and the college table; his father's mind, the present earl of Wemyss, being almost as liberal as his fortune. But where could a young gentleman, or nobleman, pass his time from his fifteenth to his twentieth year, to greater advantage?

A few years before this period, the Baconian, or, in other words, the just and legitimate mode of philosophizing, or investigation, on all subjects, was not, perhaps, first introduced into this university, but first seriously attended to. The principles of that

philosophy had never before been so well understood in that seminary, and so well explained and inculcated, as they were by Dr. Wilkie, who so worthily filled the chair of natural philosophy. At the same time, Dr. Watson, afterwards principal, in his course of logic, applied with great ability, as well as didactic zeal, the just laws of investigation, to the operations of the human mind, and the nature of the evidence of truth or knowledge.

As Dr. Wilkie was greatly admired by all who knew him, and were capable of estimating his genius and learning, as a philosopher, a poet, and a man of wit, I shall not make any apology for giving a place here to some anecdotes concerning a man, so highly distinguished by a rare union of happy talents; but whose character, however, is, perhaps, less generally known than that of any other man equally entitled to fame.

It must be owned, that there is something of a whimsical appearance in a philosopher's writing a poem, at this time of day, about the sons of the Grecian heroes, who fought in the first war against Thebes. In this age of science and philosophical precision, there is scarcely any kind of poetry that is tolerable, besides the descriptive, including, however, the dramatic. The muses that inspire poetry, are now the sciences — the sciences that give interest and elevation to all things, by combining them with physical and moral nature.

The epic poem, languishing under the piercing rays of science, has died a natural death. The last efforts, in this way, at all respectable, are the Leonidas of Glover; and, Wilkie's Epigoniad. Still,

however, the admirable genius of Wilkie might have been better employed, and more happily directed; notwithstanding all that he says in his preface, which has been universally allowed to be a piece of excellent criticism. There are few, I presume, who can work up their fancy, or be wrought upon by others, to feel any interest in the characters or fortunes of the Epigoni. But there is no one who does not admire the variegated harmony of Wilkie's versification, the splendour of his descriptions, and the powers and apparent facility with which he enters into the genius of the times of which he writes, and the very soul of Homer. He was, as may be well imagined, a most excellent Greek scholar. With the writers of Greece, poets, historians, and philosophers, he was familiarly acquainted; and could describe, and even imitate, the distinguishing turn or manner of each. His fables certainly possess both aptness and a beautiful simplicity.

Dr. Wilkie was once urged to write a didactic poem, by a friend, who thought, that the rare admixture of poetry and philosophy, found in him, qualified him in a singular manner for such an undertaking. This, however, he declined, saying, that he did not know of any one who had succeeded in that species of composition. His friend mentioned Lucretius, as an instance of success. "Lucretius, said Dr. Wilkie, reminds me of a cobler I once knew, who would now and then take up his fiddle, and play himself a tune, but soon throw it aside, and fall a hammering again on his last."

A very shining part of Dr. Wilkie's character was what has been above noticed, his talents for conver-

sation. To this, all who were acquainted with him, looked back, and of these, they who have still survived him, still look back with admiration. Of this they all talked, or talk still, in terms of the highest praise. His conversation was indeed a series of the most original thought, and of the most ingenious reasoning, clothed in the most nervous and poetical language. Every object was painted to the life, and placed before one in the most striking attitude. All this was accompanied with much wit.—I fancy there has seldom been found so much wit, poetry, and philosophy, blended together in the conversation of any individual. His eloquence, however, was different from what professors of rhetoric and most critics would applaud. No studied rotundity of periods: no pomp of words. At the same time that it was very poetical, and full of the noblest images, it was perfectly simple and perspicuous.

Dr. Wilkie was particularly happy in transferring into his literary or philosophical conversation, the terms and phrases of common life, and of the arts, particularly of agriculture. Before he was called to the university of St. Andrews, he was minister of a country parish: Rathoe, in Mid Lothian. The habit of conversing with his parishioners and neighbours, while he lived in the country, had enabled him to adapt his conversation to their comprehension; at the same time that it had furnished him with many strong and figurative, though, perhaps, not always elegant expressions. He lived, during the earlier part of his life, alternately with the literary men about the university of Edinburgh, and the farmers in his own neighbourhood. There was, therefore, a

versatility, as it were, in his eloquence, which would have enabled him to shine amidst a company of peasants, of poets, or philosophers.

His observations on human nature were profound; and he excelled in unfolding the motives of action, and in exposing the ridicule or absurdity of vice or folly. Another subject on which his conversation was always very entertaining and instructive, was criticism. He was furnished with the most frequent subjects of his remarks, from his having read both the Latin and Greek classics, as already observed, repeatedly, with the utmost attention. But the favourite subject of his literary conversation was, the philosophy of lord Bacon. The great and sublime ideas of that philosophy were wonderfully congenial with his mind; and he had penetrated deeply into those branches of metaphysics which serve as the basis of mathematics and natural philosophy. The maxims laid down by lord Bacon, in the Novum Organum, and the scale or appreciation of experiments, which form the second part of that work, he used to illustrate with great powers of eloquence and ingeniousness. It was here, more than any where, that he was thought to rise above the level of even his own conversation. A very favourite author with Dr. Wilkie, was Cervantes. Accustomed to take the most extensive view of every object, he saw in Don Quixote the most perfect picture of enthusiasm of every denomination. "It was a book, he said, written with a learned insight into enthusiasm of every kind."—Here, too, he seems to have had an eye to his great guide in philosophy, who, among the subjects of investigation which he recommends, for

illustrating the connexion between mind and matter, (*i. e.* the laws which regulate this connexion) enumerates the history of the power and influence of the imagination; and that also of the several species of enthusiasm.

On the philosophical productions of lord Bacon, he was wont to dwell with peculiar pleasure. And he would often repeat with rapture the following, which has been so fully verified: "That when physics shall be grounded on experiment, their effects will as far excel the pretended powers of magic, as the actions of Cæsar or Alexander surpassed the fabulous achievements of Arthur, of Britain, or Amadis, of Gaul."

In the particular doctrines of natural philosophy, he was most delighted with that of gravitation. And he used to say, "That human reason had seldom been so well employed as when it inquired into the effects, and seldom so ill as when it inquired into the cause of gravitation. No part of pure mathematics gave him so much pleasure as the doctrine of fluxions. Having never applied very seriously to the deeper parts of mathematics, till his appointment to the natural philosophy chair at St. Andrews, he never acquired great facility in the fluxionary calculus. But there was never any man who understood the principles of that calculus more thoroughly. He used to say, that the advantage of fluxions consists in giving at once the result of an infinite series of approximations." He was the first, and probably the only poet, that has been initiated in the mysteries of this difficult science.

As a teacher of natural philosophy, Dr. Wilkie has

rarely been excelled. He carried along with him into his school, the same clearness, simplicity, and force of expression, which accompanied him on all other occasions. His course was very happily arranged, and contained many uncommon views of nature, and many new and excellent demonstrations. He was, withal, very close or strict in his reasoning; and, on that account, by those who came to his lectures, without a sufficient preparation of geometry, and a sufficient command of their attention, was sometimes supposed to be obscure.

From that absence of mind, from which men who think deeply are rarely exempted, Dr. Wilkie would now and then lose the thread of his demonstration altogether. On such occasions he would immediately stop short; being wholly superior to the artifice of amusing his students for an instant, with words, which, if they did not understand, their modesty might lead them to blame themselves, rather than their master. He would not hesitate, after a short pause, to say, "I have been bewildered—I have been speaking nonsense;"—and, having thus recollected himself, would proceed with a new demonstration. Indeed, Dr. Wilkie possessed that entire simplicity of character, so rarely to be found, by means of which a man puts himself altogether out of the question, and fixes his eye only on what is true, or what is right.

As instances of the success with which Dr. Wilkie assiduously laboured, both in his school and private conversation, to inculcate and propagate the strict and severe method of the Baconian philosophy, I may mention the Rev. Mr. John Playfair, professor

of natural philosophy in the university of Edinburgh, secretary to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and author of ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE HUTTONIAN SYSTEM OF GEOLOGY;* and Mr. John Lesslie, professor of mathematics there, author of the celebrated "Experimental Inquiry concerning the Nature and Propagation of Heat." In the same school, under Mr. Gregory, professor of mathematics, and Dr. Wilkie, professor of experimental philosophy, was bred Mr. James Glenie, of his majesty's corps of engineers, inventor of the antecedental calculus and universal comparison; which, with other performances of his, manifest a faculty of generalizing in those sciences not inferior to what is to be found in the works now extant of any person that has written on them. He was the first that gave a general demonstration of the truth of the binomial theorem $\overline{|1+x|}^{\frac{m}{n}}$ and of the residual theorem $\overline{|1-x|}^{\frac{m}{n}}$ in all cases whatsoever, not only when m and n are integers, but also when m has to n any ratio whatsoever: which is published in the 5th volume of Baron Masere's Scriptores Logarithmici. He has lately given another remarkable specimen also of this turn of mind in a general geometrical investigation of many curious and interesting properties of the circle, printed in the 6th volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; from which the

* Mr. Playfair, who was much noticed by Dr. Wilkie when he attended his school, was honoured with his particular friendship as long as he lived.

very beautiful, extensive, and much celebrated theorems of the late truly elegant and inventive geometer, Dr. Matthew Stewart, respecting it, that were published by him, without demonstrations, sixty years ago, are derived in a very simple and concise manner, as corollaries. Mr. Glenie is also the author of the "Short Essay on the Modes of Defence best adapted to the Situation and Circumstances of this Island;" which made such an impression on the public mind, as to prevent the execution of a system of defence for Portsmouth and Plymouth dock-yards, which was certainly much better calculated for the subjugation of this country, and the subversion of its constitution, than any other scheme that had ever been submitted to the consideration of parliament. In the debate and division of the house of commons on that subject, in which the principles of the Short Essay were vigorously maintained, and the pamphlet itself quoted, the duke of Richmond's projected works for Portsmouth and Plymouth were rejected by the casting voice of the speaker, Mr. Cornwall; the most important vote, perhaps, that was ever given in the British parliament; as Mr. Glenie's was, I suppose, one of the most important political services that was ever directly performed by any mathematician. For this service, lieutenant Glenie was forced to leave the engineer corps, in order to avoid being ruined by the expense of continually moving from one station to another. In 1785, he was ordered, by the duke of Richmond, master-general of the ordnance, to New Brunswick. He had not been there

above three months, when the master-general, contrary to his own printed regulations, and in a time of profound peace, ordered him to Grenada. His friends wrote to him, saying, that they understood it to be his grace's intention to keep him constantly moving from one place to another, till he should force him to leave the corps, and therefore advised him to resign. He accordingly did resign, and quitted a profession of which he was passionately fond, and in which he had signalized both his courage and skill, in Canada, as appears from the dispatches of lord Dorchester, in 1778. Though the projected works for Portsmouth and Plymouth were set aside, the duke was permitted to carry on part of the extensive plan, which he had in contemplation when he drew up his report of 1783. This occasioned another publication by Mr. Glenie, entitled, "Observations on the Duke of Richmond's extensive Plans of Fortifications, and the new Works he has been carrying on since those which were set aside by the House of Commons in 1786."

It may readily be supposed that a man who possessed such literary accomplishments, and at the same time such talents for conversation, as Dr. Wilkie, would form a very distinguished member of a literary society or club. So he did. When he was a young man, a student at Edinburgh, and afterwards a preacher in the vicinity, the Scottish metropolis had began to be distinguished by ardour and enterprize in every walk of literature and science. And a literary society was formed, which not only discussed questions among themselves, but main-

tained a correspondence with several eminent literati and philosophers in different places. In that society there was not one whose arguments or course of reasoning, in the dispute or debate, made generally so deep an impression, and carried so much conviction to the minds of all present, as Wilkie's. In these were exhibited a striking proof and example of the connection between eloquence and a candid and sincere disposition. The unrivalled success of Wilkie in debate arose not more from his fine genius and extensive learning, than the sincerity and simplicity of his moral character. It was to this chiefly that he himself attributed his success in literary disputation. When he was complimented on this, he would say, "When men of equal powers take opposite sides of a question, the balance is naturally cast in favour of him who takes the right one. I find that men of bright parts are very apt to take the weak or wrong side of a question, that they may display their reasoning powers. I always deliver my sincere sentiments, which I can unfold and maintain more easily than I should any others."

Among the members of that club, and the particular friends of Wilkie, were the late Sir Gilbert Elliot, father of the present lord Minto, lord Elibank, principal Robertson, Dr. Adam Smith, Mr. J. Hume, professor Ferguson, Mr. Alexander Wedderburn, afterwards lord Loughborough, and others, who attained to great distinction in both the law and literature. Though many of these had been more fortunate than he, in the pursuit of literary fame, he

never spoke of any of them with the smallest degree of chagrin or envy. On the contrary, he was fond of telling anecdotes of them in a good natured and friendly way, and describing the peculiarities of their genius, turns, and habits. Indeed the most perfect candour, and the most sincere love of truth and justice, formed the basis of his character.

It was a very considerable time after Mr. Wilkie was licensed to preach the gospel, before he obtained a living, or kirk. During this interval, amounting to about ten years, he managed the farm, which, with the charge of the family, was left on his hands by his father. On the Sundays, he occasionally preached, as is the custom for probationers, or preachers, for the ministers settled in the neighbourhood. On one of these occasions, the late earl of Lauderdale had the sense to discover Mr. Wilkie's uncommon parts and attainments, and the merit soon after of rewarding them as far as he could, by settling him as minister at Rathoe.

Dr. Wilkie was an excellent farmer, but paid very little attention to theories of agriculture. He read few books on that subject. One maxim of his deserves to be recorded, "I never draw any conclusion, said he, in matters of husbandry, but from direct experiment, and I never reason from analogy." The example he set of an excellent method of husbandry was of great use in that part of the country, where he spent the last years of his life. The people in the neighbourhood of St. Andrews were astonished to find a professor who could talk to them in their own language, and teach them how to raise excellent crops of turnips and potatoes.

He was a great sloven in his dress, and regardless of all gentility and elegance of every kind. He was frequently to be seen hastening through the streets of St. Andrews, with a shabby great coat, his wig, as usual, awry, and his hoes on his shoulder, to work in his fields. He was parsimonious, and fond of money. Yet he was in the habit of sending very considerable sums to housekeepers in St. Andrews, whom he knew to be struggling hard under poverty, not only to escape being burthensome, but to maintain a decent appearance in society. This, as was conjectured before, but not fully known till after his death, he did in the most secret manner, exacting as a condition, profound secrecy from the parties relieved by his bounty.

The following anecdote, however trivial in appearance, is well calculated to give an idea of Dr. Wilkie's genius, habits, and manner in society. In musing on any subject, when any ludicrous idea occurred to him, which often happened, he would, without saying a word, burst into a fit of laughter, and then give an account of the subject that had moved it. Among the professors of St. Andrews, cotemporary with Dr. Wilkie, was Mr. Morton, professor of Humanity, and afterwards of Greek, who was in many, nay, most respects, the very opposite of Dr. Wilkie. He was not a man of genius, nor yet of very great learning: though well enough qualified to teach languages, and give lectures in philology, and remarkably careful and diligent in the discharge of his professional duty. Having acted as private tutor and travelling governor to several young gentlemen and noblemen, he was completely

fashioned to the world; and to dress, and all the exterior decencies of life, most punctiliously attentive. Having no children, and being of a liberal turn of mind, he was withal wholly indifferent about money, beyond what was necessary. One day, Dr. Wilkie, when it was his turn to be hebdomader, and preside at the college table, after a silence for a few minutes, without a word, by way of preamble, gave way to a hearty and almost immoderate fit of laughter. "I have been thinking," said he, "that Mr. Moreton would not have one hair of his wig out of its place for a GUINEA. This single stroke was highly descriptive of both him who made the observation, and him who was the subject of it.

Dr. Wilkie was not insensible of the defects of his own character. "The difficulties," he said, "in which I, with my sisters on my hand, was early involved, strongly impressed on my mind, the value of independence, and, I fear, that I am still too much attached to the means of securing it." The candour of this acknowledgement is, perhaps, the best apology that can be made for the failing that gave rise to it.

He was passionately fond of music, and no bad performer on the violin. He was, in a word, not only both a natural and moral philosopher, of the first classes, but a poet of great powers, and a lover of all the arts. Yet he was never known to betray the smallest symptom of being in love: though he liked to converse with sensible and accomplished women; and was not backward, or niggardly in his praises of female beauty, or other attractions. He was very happy when any of the ladies who visited

his sisters, who lived in his house till his death, expressed any satisfaction with his performances on the violin: he very readily gave a tune on the fiddle, in exchange for a song. The situation and character of the university of St. Andrews, at the period to which these anecdotes refer, excite deep regret, when we consider the state into which it is now fallen. For a long series of years, perhaps from the very institution of the university, there was, probably, a gradual relaxation of discipline, and a departure from antient usages, as well as doctrines. This relaxation and departure, is, indeed, incident to all human institutions. Many circumstances in the constitution of the university were necessarily changed with the changes of religion, at the reformation, and at the revolution. There was not any good reason, however, that I know of, for abolishing the custom of shooting annually for the silver arrow, which tended to nourish a manly spirit, nor yet for a remission of professional duty, or the gradual encroachments that have been made on the rights of the bursars.

By the original constitutions of the colleges, the scholars on the foundation, or the bursars, received the benefit of the college lectures, without paying any fees. The professors were paid by lodging, board at the public tables, and a salary. The other bursars, maintained by land bequeathed for that purpose by the crown, or individual noblemen and gentlemen, were understood, in all respects, to be on the same footing with the bursars depending on the original college estates, and inducted by the provosts and regents, on a public trial of merit, or on competition.

There were not any fees paid, originally, by bursars, at either St. Leonard's, or Salvator's college, any more than at St. Mary's, or the Divinity College at this day — here, indeed, no fees are taken from any one. It has been judged indecent, and perhaps a kind of simony, to take fees for instruction in theology. The principals and masters of the colleges were the administrators of the funds mortified, (in the language of the Scotch law,) for the maintenance and instruction of those accessary bursars, just in the same manner as they were administrators of the funds, mortified for the maintenance and instruction of the bursars, originally on the foundation. No fees were taken, at first from what, for the sake of distinction, I have called accessary, any more than from the first established bursars. The farms, of which the colleges were the managers, and administrators were supposed to be, in all instances, a reasonable and full equivalent for lodging, board, and instruction, and, in some instances, somewhat more. But in process of time, fees were demanded first from the holders of bursaries, not originally on the foundation, and by and by even from those that were. In the time of popery, the principals and masters lived wholly within the walls of the college, being monks: so, also, did the regents, or masters, in the time of episcopacy, and for some little time after. In those periods, a professorship was not thought so good a benefice as a church living; and the regents commonly looked forward to some preferment in the church, just as our fellows of colleges do at Oxford and Cambridge. The university, or colleges, were patrons of a very great num-

ber of church-livings; some of which, at least, it appears, were preferred to professorships. The case is now quite altered; it is reversed. Clergymen are very desirous of becoming professors at St. Andrews; and it is no wonder. The emoluments that accrued to professors have become greater; their labour less.

When the monkish professors were secularized by the establishment of the kirk, they crept gradually out of their apartments in the colleges, lived in houses of their own, in the town, and became fathers, or masters of families. As the university estate was productive, greatly beyond its immediate exigencies, though not beyond the progressive improvements, that may be supposed to have been intended and implied in the same spirit by which it was established; the masters easily obtained grants from the crown, of liberal allowances in money, in lieu of their former lodgings and board in the colleges. They afterwards obtained an allowance, also, for gowns, or, what I think was called in their petition, to the barons of the exchequer, professional paraphernalia: in short, they found it an easy matter to obtain, out of the surplus fund, any grant for which there was any shadow of reason.

At the union of the two colleges of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, the salaries of the professors were fixed at a determinate sum of money, one hundred and fifty pounds a year, each, and two hundred pounds to the principal: one hundred and fifty pounds a year, with the fees of the classes, was reckoned a liberal provision for any public teacher, at that time; and so it was. It was neither so great, to

supersede their efforts to draw, by their reputation, students to the university, nor so small as to leave them wholly at the mercy of contingencies. The overplus income arising from the college estates was to be at the disposal of the crown, but understood to be laid out in repairs and improvements.

About nine years after the union of the colleges, that great pile of buildings on the north side of the United College was begun, and in two or three years more it was finished. The rough appearance and the projecting stones at the east end of this were calculated for a junction with another great pile, to bound the square on the east side, and some old and ruinous buildings were cleared away for that purpose, intended to be carried into execution as soon as the surplus funds of the United College should be adequate to the expense. About the same time, that is, 1760, the college chapel was repaired, and in a few years there after the public library. The expense of these erections and alterations, which must have been very great, was altogether independent of the annual expenditure of the United College, and defrayed out of the growing or overplus fund; and as no other than very trifling expenses appear to have been incurred since the year 1760, this surplus fund, through the intelligent and faithful management of the professors, must have arisen to a great amount.

I was informed by many inhabitants of St. Andrews, where I remained for several days, revisiting old scenes and old acquaintance, that the yearly rents of certain farms belonging to the United Col-

lege and in the vicinity of St. Andrews, the Over and Nether Kenlies, Balraymont, Scooney Hill, and Trolside, in the year 1760, did not exceed one hundred and eighty pounds; but that the surplus rents of these farms, together with some acres which have been added to the farm of Scooney Hill, after deducting these one hundred and eighty pounds, now exceed nine hundred pounds sterling per annum. This additional rent of nine hundred pounds per annum could not have made any part of the annual expenditure of the United College in 1760: for at that time it did not exist. It has been made up of the gradual increase upon the expiration of the leases, and the grants of new ones; and this nine hundred pounds a year, with the accumulations of the interest thereon from 1760 up to the present time, must altogether amount to a very great sum, independent of the ordinary expenditure of the United College, and equal to the endowment of several new professorships. But, if so large a sum has accrued from the growing value of these three or four farms, how much probably has accrued from the progressive rents of the whole university estates!

The colleges are entitled to draw the stipends of all the churches of which they are the patrons during the vacancies. These casualties, which are altogether independent of the annual and ordinary expenditure of the colleges, being faithfully collected and accumulated with the growing interest, must, since 1760, have arisen to a very considerable amount.

I am assured, also, that the bursaries, (of the

funds for which, it must be observed, the colleges are the agents and administrators) have not always been filled up, and that, of consequence, these vacant bursaries too, as well as the vacancies of churches, help to swell the surplus funds of the university of St. Andrews.

The Ramsay bursaries, paid out of a farm near Kenoway, have been raised from three to five, and augmented from fifteen to twenty pounds each. On the expiration of the lease, the rent was raised from forty-five pounds a year to one hundred and sixteen pounds. The patron, Sir Alexander Ramsay, perhaps a little apprehensive lest the gift of his ancestors should be inverted or misapplied, took care that it should be applied to the purpose for which it was originally intended. He therefore proposed that the augmented rent of one hundred and sixteen pounds should be divided into five bursaries of twenty pounds each, leaving the remaining sixteen pounds to be applied to the repairs of the houses and the improvement of the farm; to which the professors readily consented. This disinterested and ready consent of the professors tends to falsify the report that an influence in disposing of bursaries in the gift of the colleges has sometimes been sold for some proportional part, or participation in them. It is, I believe, pretty certain, that an offer of this kind was on one occasion made by a certain member of the university, but it was rejected, nor has any similar offer been repeated.

Out of all the numerous foundations of this kind at St. Andrews, we do not hear of any in-

crease or augmentation similar to that which has taken place in the Ramsay bursaries. If all the other bursaries are capable of a like augmentation, the wealth that may be put in requisition for the benefit of the university must be immense.

It is accumulated not only by the progressive value of the college farms, but the bursary farms, of which also they are administrators. The patronage of the United College is very considerable: they are the patrons of sixteen table bursaries, and of several churches, as well as professorships and offices within the college. This has divided the professors into two parties, though at present of unequal strength or numbers. Their intriguing policy and scrambling for superiority is much spoken of.

On the occasion of a vacancy in the professorship of Greek, Mr. Henry Hill, a student in divinity, and a very young man, brother to Dr. George Hill above-mentioned, and brother-in-law to Mr. Cook, professor of moral philosophy, who had married their sister, was immediately proposed for that office. Many expected that it would have been offered to the professor of Humanity, the truly learned and ingenious and worthy Dr. Hunter, the friend, and in a manner, the eleve of lord Monboddo; than whom a person better qualified to fill the vacant chair was not to be found perhaps in Europe. The emoluments of the Humanity were not near so great as those of the Greek chair; and Dr. Hunter had a numerous family of the best brought up and amiable daughters. Dr. Hunter insisted that the new professor should be

chosen by competition, according to the original constitution of the college; declaring, at the same time, that he would not offer himself as a candidate.

It was proposed by the party in opposition to the Hills, that the Rev. Dr. William Brown, son to the worthy professor of church history at St. Andrews, where he was educated, minister of the English church at Utrecht, and who had attained to not a little celebrity in Holland and Germany, should be invited to the vacant chair. This was a thing so natural and plausible, that it was not objected to even by what was called the family compact. A deputation waited, with the offer, on professor Brown, who could not answer for his son's acceptance until he should hear from him. This delay was not agreed to, and Mr. Henry Hill was chosen. Dr. Hunter appealed to the court of session at Edinburgh, and urged the law of choice by competition, as is the case in the Marischal College of Aberdeen; but this law of the United College at St. Andrews, the court declared to be obsolete, and confirmed the appointment of Mr. Henry Hill. By this time, the Right Honourable Mr. Henry Dundas, whose influence was so great in Edinburgh and in every part of Scotland, enjoyed among his other offices the dignity of being chancellor of the university of St. Andrews.

As I have made an extract from the Annual Register relating to the old chancellor, so I shall here make another relating to the new one. "Mr. Dundas was not only fair, liberal, and generous, in the intercourses of private life, but, in his conduct as a minister towards different classes of men, as the

Scottish emigrants; the Scottish clergy; that glorious and important class on whom our security so much depends, the seamen, with their relations; the French refugees, and other foreigners in the service of government; and some other classes, besides individuals without number. Of letters, except the letter of the law, he neither was nor pretended to be a patron, admirer, or great judge. His genius, habits, and pursuits, were wholly turned to business and politics. Never did the Muses courtsey so low to power as when the university of St. Andrews chose for their chancellor Mr. Henry Dundas."

Soon after this, the tables at the United College were abolished, and the numerous apartments in the college almost wholly deserted. The bursars, instead of a table, and lodgings kept in proper repair in the colleges, were allowed what the masters judged to be an equivalent in money. Thus they were exempted from the duty of hebdomaders and perlustrators; thus the expense of cooks, porters, and other officers, might be saved; and thus, too, the expense of repairing the apartments for lodging the students would also be cut off. The professors seemed to shrink from the trouble of the antient order, and to retire within the bosom of their own families. After two or three years, however, the tables were restored.

The professors, however, talked slightingly of lodging and board in the colleges, as not proper for young men of fortune, whom they drew to board in their own families, or boarding-houses kept by their poor friends, particularly such of their fe-

male relations as were not disposed of in marriage to professors, or to candidates and expectants of professorships.

In the poor kingdom of Scotland, the revenues that had passed by donations from the crown and individuals, before the Reformation, into the hands of the clergy and universities, were greater in proportion to the whole lands or revenues of the kingdom, than in any other country of equal extent and wealth in Europe. The revenues of the archbishop of St. Andrews are computed, due allowance being made for the depreciation of money, to have been equal to those of the archbishop of Toledo at this day; and the university of St. Andrews was proportionably richer than any of their universities. Besides landed estates for the repairs and extension, as occasion might require, of the public buildings, the purchase of books, and the maintenance of the principals, professors, and bursars, the university of St. Andrews enjoyed the patronage, as above observed, of a very great number of kirks, or ecclesiastical benefices, the disposal of which, it was understood, that they would be the just remunerators of literary merit. A great number of these rights of patronage was sold about forty years ago to the present earl of Fife.

It is a fundamental law in presbyterian discipline and government, that no minister shall hold a plurality of benefices. But a precedent has lately been established, in the case of the Rev. Dr. Arnott, professor of divinity, and minister of King's Barns, by which the possessors of St. Andrews, who have studied theology, may hold, together with their

professorships, any of the church livings that remain in their gift.

On the whole, it appears that the colleges of St. Andrews must have a revenue more than four times greater than their expenditure. To suppose that this large overplus sum has been impropriated or embezzled would be equally inconsistent with the integrity of the professional character of public instructors, and to known facts. So careful have they been of the management of that surplus fund, that when public requisitions were made, which would have fully justified extraordinary measures, they made the library fund answerable for this contribution of two hundred pounds to government. The hitherto useless overplus of the rents must, therefore, as some think, be in a very advanced state of accumulation, and more than sufficient, if not to double the number of the professorships, bursaries, and tables, yet fully adequate to the addition of competent teachers of the French and other modern languages, additional branches of practical mathematics, a chemical apparatus and professor, and the endowment of a military academy, and at the same time afford a very liberal supply to government, without touching the funds appointed for the purchase of books.

Upon the death of principal Maccormick, uncle to the Hills, renowned for telling pleasant stories of a certain kind, when a clergyman in the vicinity of Edinburgh to the lord president Dundas, Mr. Henry, and other branches and friends of the Arniston family, Mr. Dundas, the new chancellor, referred the nomination of his successor to

the professors of the United College, provided that they should be unanimous in their choice; but reserving the nomination of a principal to himself if they should not. The opposite parties, who were then scrambling for the superiority, could not agree, and Dr. Playfair, the compiler of an extended edition of Blair's Chronology, and minister of Meigle, the parish of Belmont, the usual residence of the late lord privy seal, the honourable Mr. Stuart Mackenzie, brother to the earl of Bute, was appointed by the crown to the vacant office.

On the death of Dr. Rotheram, an Englishman, professor of natural philosophy, the intriguing policy of the professors was again displayed, and Mr. Macdonald, minister of Kemboc, who had the merit of having married a sister of the professor Hills, was appointed by their party, which was also considered to be that of the chancellor, to the vacant office. Mr. Leslie, the professor of mathematics at Edinburgh, was among the candidates rejected. The number of students at the university of St. Andrews, which, about twenty years ago, was one hundred and sixty and upwards, and of which about one hundred and forty were students of philosophy, has been reduced to an amazing degree; insomuch, that from the one hundred and forty at the United College, the number of students there, notwithstanding the great number of bursaries, which must operate as premiums in drawing students to this famous seminary of learning, for the last year, 1805, was only fifty-six, of whom there were only seven that attended Mr. Macdonald's class of natural philosophy.

Pluralities of bursaries have begun to take place in the university of St. Andrews, as well as of benefices. A student, some years ago, held two bursaries, amounting together to twenty-five pounds per annum. He also held one of those called table bursaries at St. Mary's College. Another student had been soliciting a table bursary for years. He hoped for the first that should become vacant; but this was given to him already in possession of two. The COMMON schools above described, for the maintenance of order and discipline, and the visitations and exhortations of the principal of the United College, have for many years been discontinued.

A great part of the wing forming the west side of the quadrangle in which the college fabric consists, or was intended to consist, is in a very decayed state, and going fast to ruin.

The apartments in St. Mary's, or the Divinity College, for the reception of students, are few of them at all inhabitable. In both colleges, every thing in the shape of repair and expense is carefully avoided.

If the students should be discouraged and driven away, and even the bursaries not claimed, the saving of the necessary repairs, and the funds for the bursaries, would swell the surplus fund already so great to an enormous amount. The factor for the United College used formerly to be some man of business. It has, of late years, been thought proper and expedient that the college factor should be one of their own number. The college factor is now Mr. Henry Hill.

It is certainly to be expected that the professors,

who are all very respectable and honourable gentlemen, will be both able and willing, nay, desirous, to give an account of their stewardship, of the superabundant college funds, which must be fully adequate to the endowment of many new professorships, and other improvements for the advancement of learning. The noted decay of the colleges has long been manifest. Even the bursaries (whose funds, as already observed, are at the disposal of the colleges) are not always completely filled up; and that scrambling of the two parties among the professors for the patronage of so many offices, and particularly the disposal of the last vacant professorship, as a sort of marriage portion to the husband of a sister, has had such an effect on the university, and particularly on the natural philosophy class, that it cannot escape the observation of any traveller; it being the common talk of St. Andrews, and of every company in which St. Andrews is mentioned. This intriguing policy has certainly a direct tendency to convert the patronage of the university into the patrimonial interest of one or a few families.

Amidst this contest for patronage, so great an indifference to the interests of learning and the university has taken place, that they do not even take the trouble of proposing subjects for prizes. Some years ago, Dr. John Gray, of Somerset-Place, who was educated and received his degree of LL.D. from St. Andrews, founded two prizes of five guineas each for the encouragement of the younger students of that seminary; but last year the university neither adjudged these prizes, nor even proposed the necessary questions and trials.

When the rapid increase in the price of all the necessaries of life, or in other words, the rapid depreciation of the value of money, is considered, the inattention of the professors of St. Andrews to the interests of the university, and their own, is truly astonishing. Instead of relaxing in that diligence, order, and that beautiful and wise economy which formerly drew so considerable a number of students to their schools, and consequently fees, one would think that they should rather use their utmost endeavours to maintain, and, if possible, improve them. That they would encourage the lodging in the college, and boarding at the college table; that they would keep the apartments in excellent repair, add any conveniences that might be wanted, and even that extension, elegance, and grandeur, to the fabric of the college, which were intended, and for which their funds are so abundantly competent; and, above all, that they would invite to their vacant chairs men of learning, talents, character, and celebrity. As to the idea of bettering their circumstances by thinning the college table, and drawing boarders to their own houses, if such an idea to any great extent be after all entertained, as is said, it is wholly unworthy of even the calculating powers of professors; for, if the university lose its reputation, and sink into insignificance and oblivion, where are they to find boarders?

But, in consideration of the change of circumstances above-mentioned, it would not be reasonable to make that means of living dependent entirely on their own exertions, in addition to the salaries fixed

at the union of the colleges. They should be at least doubled; nor would there be any hesitation in this on the part of the crown, if they would only present a petition for that purpose. Their indefinite accumulation of the overplus fund is not to be commended. They have, probably, some grand designs in view, with which they intend to astonish the world, when once that fund shall be thought fully adequate to their execution. But there are some things that appear necessary to be done now, and which might be done at no great expense; and, the superabundant fund, without being very greatly diminished, might spare the addition to their salaries just mentioned. Nay, the barons of the Exchequer, though not applied to, should generously interfere, and request the professors, amidst their solicitude for the augmentation of the superabundant fund, to have some mercy on themselves, and appropriate out of this, one hundred and fifty pounds annually each to their own use, which, with the class fees, if the college should return to the spirit and regimen that prevailed from 1760 to 1790, and to which they should be powerfully exhorted, would form a very comfortable and genteel livelihood.

The streets of the city of St. Andrews, still inhabited, are three, running nearly parallel from west to east, but not quite parallel, as they all terminate within about a hundred yards of the cathedral at the east end. These streets are intersected at right angles by narrower streets, called Wynds. In a line nearly parallel to these, there was once a street called Swallow-Street, running beyond their utmost extent on both the east and west, between them and the

great ledge of rocks on the north, that secures the town from the raging billows of the ocean, when agitated by the north and east winds—where this ridge of rock ceased to interpose, Swallow-street was undermined, and fell into the sea. It was a full mile in extent. Vestiges of it are every where still to be seen. It is now, though the antient name be still familiar, and frequently mentioned in written-deeds, as well as in some printed publications, called commonly, for what reason I know not, by the whimsical name of the *Scores*. On the south side of the south street, and nearer the west end than the east, is a much admired ruin of a chapel, belonging to a convent of Gray Friars.

The remains of the cathedral, demolished by the reformers, are grand and sublime. Both towers at the east end are still standing. One only of the western towers now remains; and a part of the west end of the outer-most south wall. Near the east end of the ruined cathedral are the remains of a chapel and tower, constructed in the elegant simplicity of Grecian architecture, of hewn stone, of an exceedingly hard and durable texture, which, instead of mouldering away, through the corrosive influence of the atmosphere, appears to gain solidity by time. It is as hard as granite, or whinstone, and must have been fetched from a distance; as the quarries in the neighbourhood are all of free-stone. The tower, called now the square steeple, is a beautiful, massy, and lofty pile, seen with admiration at a great distance. The wooden fabric, running from the bottom to the top, and consolidating this fine piece of architecture, on the inside, having fallen, through the

lapse of ages, into decay, was lately properly repaired, by order of the barons, at the expense of the exchequer. This chapel and tower, which, it is evident, was built before the introduction of the Gothic or the Saxon style, is said, by all the ecclesiastical historians who have mentioned it, to have been built by St. Regulus, or St. Rule, a Greek monk, who came to convert the Picts, towards the close of the fourth century. St. Andrews was from hence, for some time, called St. Rule; and by the Highlanders it is still called Kilrule, and Kilraymont. It was called by its present name when the Picts were driven out of Stratherne, Fife, and other counties, to the south of the Grampians, by the Scots.

At this time the metropolitan church, which under the Picts had been at Abernethey, was translated to St. Andrews; and the town was new peopled by a colony of Scots, particularly those under the command of Fiffus Duffus, whose great services to king Duffus were rewarded with all the lands of that shire, formerly called Peight Landia, and which Fiffus, from his own name, called Fifland, now Fife.

The wall surrounding the priory, which, with buildings, gardens, and fields, was of vast extent, is still almost entire. It is fortified with bastions, in its whole extent; some round, some square. Part of the priors and sub-priors houses are yet standing. The whole extent of the inclosure or fortification was more than a mile in circumference. On the north side of the town, on the brink of a perpendicular rock, washed on two sides by the sea, are seen the ruins of the episcopal palace, which has ob-

tained in St. Andrews, the name of cardinal Beton's castle. It was a very spacious quadrangle, including a large area; and fortified, on the two land sides, or faces, by turrets, and a very deep and wide moat; which, on the west side, is now almost wholly filled up—not so on the south side. From the ruins it appears that the walls, which were amazingly thick, consisted of two parallel walls, with a strong cement of some stuff, in a fluid state, poured in between them, and consolidating them into one mass. In this quarter of the town the sea has made great encroachments on the land. It has undermined, on the south-east angle, part of the wall of the castle, which is seen lying within the water-work in enormous masses.

The prosperity and opulence of St. Andrews, before the reformation, may be commenced from this single circumstance, that there was an annual fair here, commencing in the beginning of April, which lasted for some weeks, and to which there resorted from two hundred to three hundred vessels, from all parts of the commercial world.

When we think of the number of religious houses formerly established at St. Andrews, and the magnificence and grandeur of the cathedral and priory, on the ruins of the same kind at Melross, Arbroath, Elgin, and many other places, and on the whole that the remote, mountainous, and poor kingdom of Scotland, should have possessed a much greater number of religious edifices and foundations, than some other countries in christendom of equal extent, and much greater wealth and natural fertility, one is

lost for a time, in wonder and amazement. But such is the intricacy of human affairs, that many circumstances involve consequences the very reverse of what we should naturally have expected. The poverty, and the barbarous state of Scotland, and the adjacent isles, awakened the religious charity and zeal of the catholic church. Missionaries were sent from Rome for the conversion and instruction of the natives, and contributions were made for the establishment of religious houses. Even Ireland experienced the happy effects of that christian spirit, with which the patriarchs of the church of Rome embraced every corner of the christian fold. Artists were sent into the seats of barbarism for the constitution of cathedrals, chapels, monasteries, and nunneries; and sums of money were remitted annually for their support. It is to the monks, more than to any other set of men, that the nations of Europe remote from Italy, the centre of the sciences and the arts, owe their best lessons and examples in both agriculture and mechanics.

Archbishop Sharp's monument, the fabrication of which was a work of some years, erected in St. Nicholas's, or the town church of St. Andrews, is of the finest marble, and has a grand appearance: though having been barbarously daubed over with white paint, by way of cleaning and improving it, by some one of the bishop's descendants or relations, the beauty of it is considerably lessened. Archbishop Kennedy's tomb, in the college chapel, or church of St. Salvator, is greatly and justly admired as a fine piece of sculpture.

Archbishop Sharp, as above observed, had been minister of Crail, and been sent by the covenanters to London, to procure some respite from their real or supposed oppression. Mr. Sharp, though active while in Scotland, in opposing the measures of government, and not less zealous in pleading the cause of the covenanters, yet, while at London, (as the cardinal who was chosen pope saw things in a different point of view after his elevation to the popedom) after he was offered the archbishoprick of St. Andrews, saw things differently; and, contrary to what St. Paul was, from a preacher, became a persecutor. However, some years after, while he was returning from Edinburgh with his daughter, who was about to be married, he was surrounded in his coach, by nine or ten people, in disguise, on horseback, who dragged him from his coach, bade him prepare for death, and then shot at him, and left him thinking that he was dead, which he pretended to be; but lifting up his head, and whispering to his disconsolate daughter, that he was not hurt, they, observing this, not being far off, returned, and soon dispatched him. And, what is remarkable, though it was known who it was that murdered him, yet none of them suffered for it. The whole country favouring them, they all, in one way or other, escaped.

The bay of St. Andrews is sometimes tossed by north-easterly winds into waves almost as tremendous as those of the Bay of Biscay. Not many years ago one of these, in a moment, laid flat a pier that had cost two thousand pounds. Ships labouring in this bay, in the utmost distress, are often seen from

the windows of the United College, while the student sits comfortably at his fire-side, reading or musing, perhaps, on the famous passage of Lucretius.

> Suave mari magno turbantibus æquóra ventis
> E terra magnum alterius spectare laborem,
> Non quia vexari quemquam jucunda voluptas,
> Sed quibus ipse malis careas, quia cernere suave est.
>
> *Lucret. lib.* ii.

Thus admirably well translated by Mr. Mason Good.

> How sweet to stand, when tempests tear the main,
> On the firm cliff, and mark the seaman's toil;
> Not that another's danger soothes the soul,
> But from such toil, how sweet to feel secure!

It is astonishing to see how many empty houses are in St. Andrews; and there is, perhaps, some propriety in applying to St. Andrews, the sarcasm that, instead of a board on every house, intimating, that it is to *let* or *sell*, they had better intimate at the entrance, a city to let, or be sold.

While walking through St. Andrews one day, I fell in with two good-looking young men, in company with two very handsome females, but rather fantastically dressed. As they were not shy, and I wished to see human nature in its various shades, I entered into conversation with them, and found, from the multiplicity of childish and ridiculous questions they asked, that, though they were composed of excellent flesh and blood, had tolerably good natural parts, and a considerable share of that knowledge which arises from books, they knew nothing of real

life. Upon inquiry, I found, that this was the family of a gentleman in this part of the country, of a very peculiar turn of mind; who, having lost a beloved wife, the mother of the children I had seen, was soured with his loss, and became extremely anxious about the education of these children. Being in easy circumstances, and having a large garden, or rather field, including a garden, surrounded with a high wall, he resolved to call in teachers to instruct them in all the branches of knowledge, but that they should never go without his premises till they were grown up, and could think and act for themselves. This he actually did; for, during near twenty years, they scarcely ever went beyond the limits of his garden. But though his children were thus confined, their health was no less an object of his care than the improvement of their minds.

At length, having scarcely seen any human face but their teachers, they were permitted to sally out and see whether the world and men were what they are represented in books. The truth is, that the young ladies, the one about seventeen, and the other not much younger, though they knew music, dancing, geography, astronomy, chronology, history, &c. &c. astonishingly well, and were accomplished in a variety of important points, when they saw a handsome young man, could not help standing and gazing at him; as their brothers did at the young women. Though handsome, and endowed with an uncommon share of natural sagacity, yet, so extremely childish were these young ladies, that they asked me why I did not wear knee-buckles, and how much the narrow riband that tied my shoes might cost. Their

brothers desired me to take off my hat in the streets, which I did, and shew them the inside of it, as it happened to be not exactly the shape of theirs; and they could not conceive how, though larger, it could be so much lighter than theirs. In the mean time, the young ladies were importuning me, to explain this and the other sign over the shop doors; and I observed, that when they bought any fruit, or sweetmeats, they desired the persons from whom they bought it to allow them to taste it beforehand.

A young man, without any fortune, who had access sometimes to their father's house, took an opportunity of taking one of these young ladies by the hand, and whispering in her ear, "will you marry me?" to which she readily answered, "yes, I will." An elopement to Edinburgh was concerted, and made. They were married; and the affectionate father soon reconciled to the marriage.

There are very few fish to be found in the inner part of the bay of St. Andrews; owing, I suppose, to the tremendous waves that are generally continued here for several days after a storm has subsided; and, owing to the same cause, scarcely any at the mouth of the Eden, a considerable river that runs into it. So that the fishers are obliged to go a great way out, and commonly as far as Fifeness; but then as seals, in crowds, are often to be seen sunning themselves on sand banks in this neighbourhood, it is surprizing, that some method is not entered into for catching them. In places where bears, lions, tygers, wolves, and the like are to be found, the hunters, covered with a skin, and imitating the appear-

ance, gestures, and motion of the animals, they wish to catch, often attack them, having a sword concealed: and the Chinese, when they go after wild geese, ducks, &c. in the sea, or lakes, swim among them, having only their heads above water, and on it the appearance of a swan, goose, duck, or something the fowls are habituated to see afloat among them; and thus equipped swimming, or wading among the fowls they wish to catch, they pull them one by one quietly by the feet, below the water; and handing them to another person equipped like themselves, or filling their other hand, thus carry off multitudes, without disturbing the rest. Might not our people, in like manner, some how or other, put on the appearance of seals, and when the seals come ashore to bask themselves in the sun, which they often do, in multitudes, get between them and the water, and then, as seals cannot run fast, knock great numbers of them on the head? Not only do seals resort in vast numbers to the banks at the mouth of the Tay and the Eden, but to those of rivulets, and even brooks. They sometimes venture to come a little way into the two rivulets that fall into the sea; the one on the south, the other on the north, side of St. Andrews.

The charter of the city, here, is a small bit of parchment, not bigger than one's hand, and signed Malcolm III. The city keys are of silver.

The spot in Magus Muir, a few miles west from St. Andrews, where archbishop Sharp was murdered, has lately, by general Melville, been inclosed and planted; and a suitable monument, with an appropriate inscription erected on the spot.

I was astonished to find, that a barbarous and cruel custom was so long kept up in this place. Towards the end of every summer, the inhabitants here, and all around this part of the country, are in the habit of assembling to see what they term a cat race. The cat is inclosed in an old cask, which is suspended by a rope from the middle of a pole, each end of which is fixed at the top of two others. From this transverse beam, the cask is hung like a man from a gallows, and every person on horseback is at liberty, as he rides briskly below the cask, to reach up, and try to knock the end out of the cask, in which the cat is, so as to make her fall down among the multitude; several thousands of whom are generally assembled to behold this savage spectacle. He who either kills the cat, or makes her fall among the people, is said to gain the race. Nor is this all: the poor cat, which, like all others, generally lights on her feet, is chased, taken by the tail, and thrown up into the air, perhaps an hundred times, till she dies; and the poor animal, thus tost up into the air, glad, and yet afraid to light among so many people, some of whom she generally wounds with her claws in her fall, seems to afford the people of this place, forgetting that cats have feelings as well as themselves, a high degree of amusement.

Nor is their goose-race, as they call it, less a mark of their inhumanity. The poor goose is hung by the feet from a gallows, similar to that from which the cask with the cat is suspended, and its neck being denuded of the feathers, and well soaped or greased, to make it slippery, the savages riding below it raise

themselves from the horses as far as they can to get hold of the gooses head, which it naturally raises up to avoid them. In this manner, while they ride under it, they try to get hold of its head; and he who pulls off the goose's head, is said to gain the race. To see the poor animal wreathing its neck, and trying to avoid the savage hand that is about to pull off its head, seems to afford the people in this part of the country a high gratification.

FROM ST. ANDREWS TO FALKLAND.

From St. Andrews I set out for Cupar of Fife, the head town of the county. I was sorry to find the internal parts of Fife neither so rich nor so well cultivated as the borders, and the comparison verified, that Fife, like a laced coat, is richest about the edges. But the north banks of the Eden, exhibiting as you descend from the moor of Strathkinnes, to Dairsie mill and bridge, inclosed and well cultivated fields, for a great extent, is an exception. In this corner of Fife. I mean that included between this part of the Eden and the Tay, I should suppose that improvement in agriculture would be not a little stimulated by the vicinity of the flourishing town of Dundee. The late laird of Pitcullo, in this, the NORTH NOOK of Fife, was one of the best farmers in Europe.

Having put up my horse at the best Inn in Cupar of Fife, I found there a gentleman scarcely recovered from a fright he had got the night before. A person, it seems, was carrying, from the east coast of Fife, an hundred rabbits, to occupy a warren in the West Highlands. The person, who had the care of the animals, hired a room for them for the night: putting them all into it, and giving them greens, and other food, he shut the door; and, having refreshed himself, went to bed. The gentleman, whom I saw, being just arrived, and a stranger, asked for supper and a room, and went to bed; which happened to be

the room contiguous to the rabbits; but knew nothing of their being there. About the middle of the night, and in the midst of his sleep, the door between his room and the rabbits not being locked, a gale of wind arising, the door suddenly opened, and the whole of the rabbits, rushing from their own room, ran into the gentleman's; some running over his face, hands, and other parts of his body, both above and below the bed, and many of them seeking for shelter below the blankets. The gentleman, awaking suddenly, was much alarmed, and roared for help, but none appeared. Their keeper was asleep, as well as every one else in the house. Thinking himself surrounded by a thousand devils, which he found before, behind, and round about him, he, at length, found the door, and ran down stairs naked in the dark. The rabbits, as much afraid as the gentleman, following him, were down stairs before him; and, it was not many minutes till the whole house was in an uproar. When the candle was lighted, nothing appeared. The rabbits had dispersed, and hid themselves in different parts of the house. Hungary waters, spirits, &c. were brought to recover the gentleman; and it was not till the rabbit man appeared, and found his rabbits gone, that he could comprehend what had happened to him.

In viewing this town, which is neither large nor populous, I was astonished to find so many meeting-houses, and different modes of worship. A gentleman here had assumed the clerical character, I found, of his own accord, and taught a variety of unusual doctrines; among others, that the holy

kiss, spoken of by St. Paul, ought literally to be practised. Having a large and commodious house, he appropriated one of the rooms for public worship, and invited all to attend it. He had a large family, and among the rest three grown-up elegant daughters, who attended regularly on Sunday, and were saluted by every one that sat near them. How far this gentleman was right in his opinion of the *sanctum basium* I leave it to the critics to decide.

Our Saviour often discommended the long prayers of the Scribes and Pharisees, and their want of sincerity, while performing religious duties. But, as there have been hypocrites and pretenders to sanctity in all ages, so I am afraid there are in the present. Among these, I fell in with one here, who, though he frequently prayed for hours at a time, with his family, yet could circumvent, and impose on his neighbours; and it was a maxim of his, that there was no sin in taking cent. per cent. profit, where the buyer was so ignorant as not to know the value of the goods. Indeed, upon many occasions, he asked more than double what he would take; and, as they do with fish-women, they that knew him, generally offered him much less than he asked. Having determined to make Cupar my head-quarters for some days, I sent something to this gentleman to be repaired; as he was a mechanic, as well as a shopkeeper, and went one evening myself to inquire if it was ready. Upon knocking at the door, a servant maid soon answered it. While I was waiting till she came, I heard a person praying. The servant asked what I wanted. I told her, but said I would wait till prayer was over. She replied, "that is unne-

cessary, for I will go and ask my master." I said, you may when he is done. Saying again, "that is unnecessary," she went up to him, while on his knees, in the midst of his family, and whispered so loud, that I heard her at the door. Are the articles belonging to the stranger gentleman ready? No, he replied, but tell him, with my compliments, they will to-morrow; or at farthest the day after; and *immediately* resumed his prayer, saying, O Lord remember poor deserted Scotland! But the maid coming to me with his answer, I did not hear what followed.

The land proprietors, or heritors, here, were, some years ago, rather unfortunate respecting their church. Having occasion for a new one, and wishing it to be built economically, they agreed with a builder for about 1500l. sterling, and paid the money; but, after the church was finished, and the keys delivered to them, the foundation began to sink, the walls to crack, insomuch, that no body would go into it. At length it was condemned, taken down, and rebuilt from the foundation.

Being so near Falkland, where there is a royal palace, that was much frequented by the Jameses, kings of Scotland, I went to see it; passing through what is called the *How*, that is the Hollow of Fife. This is formed by the eastern part of the Aichil Hills, tapering off and dying away in the German Ocean on the north side, and the hilly land continued from the roots of the Lomond Hills at Falkland to Nidy Knockhill at Dairsie, on the south. The high land, on either side, bends inward, both at the east end at Dairsie, and the west end at

Strathmeiglo: where the Lomond Hills approach so near to the Aichils, as to form a valley little more than a mile in width. The How of Fife, where longest is about nine miles, where broadest somewhat above three. It is watered in its whole extent by the Eden; which, however, runs on the whole nearer to the south side than the north. The middle part of this oval district, which is sandy and moorish, is in many places covered with fir woods. Those on the estate of the earl of Leven, near his magnificent and beautiful seat, called Melville house, are of great extent, and great value. The trees grow to a large size; and, when plots are cut down, they are sometimes converted, after the rotting of the roots, into arable land, and sometimes planted again, not only with firs, but other kinds of wood. The village and parish of Monimail, in which Melville house is situated, is celebrated for both its amenity and salubrity, by the historian, George Buchanan. It has a southern exposure, on the foot of a hill, or rather hilly ground, by the incurvation of which it is protected from every wind, except that from the south, and south-west. The soil, though only a light loom, is not unfertile, and the air is dry, and very conducive to health and comfort. A woman died lately here at the advanced age of 105.

In passing from Cupar to Falkland, three objects, which emphatically mark the character of different periods in the history of Scotland, arrest attention. These are Scots-Tarvet, or Tarbat Tower, perched on a lofty eminence in that hilly ridge, which bounds the How of Fife on that side; the old and deserted house or castle of Fairney, formerly belonging to the

Balfours, a great family in Fife, situated in the midst of a morass; and between both, in a dry, salubrious, and warm situation, in the plain, and near the Eden, the seat of the earl of Crawfurd: which has not been built above thirty years ago; the antient seat of Struther's, situated, according to the genius of the times, in a hilly district, and on a strong position on a deep glen or den, has been exchanged for this new residence, called, I think, Crawfurd Lodge. In Scots-Tarvet, or Tarbat Tower, and the castle of Fairney, the main object was protection: in Crawfurd Lodge, the object is convenience and comfort.

The first object that strikes a traveller on his arrival at Falkland, from the east, is the palace. This was originally the principal seat of the Macduffs, earls of Fife. On the attainder of the seventeenth earl of that antient and illustrious family, who have deserved so well of their country,* it became, in 1424, forfeited to the crown. By James V. it was enlarged and improved. Several of the apartments are yet in a tolerable state of repair, and have been for many years past, I believe the greater part of the last, as well as what has run of the present century, the residence of the parish minister of Falkland: which saved the duke of Athol, and the other heritors, the expense of repairing the manse. Enough of it still remains to shew its former mag-

* The present Earl, in an age of commerce and the arts, displays in his various improvements, on his extensive estates, the same ardent and persevering enterprize, that his ancestors did in arms. His wise and liberal economy is a blessing to his tenants; and his example a benefit to his country.

nificence and elegance, and the fine taste of the princely architect.

It is situated on plain ground, near the foot of the Eastern Lomond Hill. But on the north side, the land suddenly sinks—so that the palace, viewed from that quarter, seems to stand on a high shelf or terrace—on the plain below were the stables and other offices, part of which are still standing, and the gardens, as at the beautiful place of Penycuik, about nine miles from Edinburgh, near the roots of the Pentland Hills. Beyond these gardens, a park, interspersed with large clumps and groves of fine oak trees; and beyond this, Falkland forest, extending over no inconsiderable portion of the How of Fife, and abounding with deer: where the kings of the House of Stewart, while they remained in Scotland, enjoyed their favourite diversion of hunting. Stumps of old oaks, of a large size, are here and there still to be seen, as well as vestiges of the dykes that inclosed the park. The park was ruined during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, by general Monk, who cut down the fine oaks, to build the fort at Perth, called now the Mount.

The palace was, or intended to be,* a spacious quadrangle—the south side fronting the Lomond Hills; the west overlooking the town of Falkland; the east the southern skirts, and the hilly tract bounding on that side the How of Fife; and the north looking down on the offices and gardens below, and commanding a prospect of the whole

* I am uncertain whether the north side, or facade, was ever built. If not, it must have been intended.

plain, bounded by the gentle and green acclivities of the Aichil Hills. Being on the north side of the Forth, and thirteen miles from Edinburgh, where the parliament assembled, and the business of the state was transacted, it was a fit retreat for the princes, and might have been called the Windsor of Scotland: though in respect of position there be a greater resemblance between Windsor and Stirling.

The gateway, which fronts the south, is placed between two fine round towers, and on the right hand joins the chapel, roofed with wood, like those of Sweden and Norway, and handsomely gilt and painted, but now in a very ruinous condition. The inner fronts of the wings, or those next to the court, were adorned with statues, heads in basso relievo, and elegant columns, not reducible to any order, but of fine proportion, with capitals approaching to the Ionic scroll. Underneath some of these pillars is inscribed I. R. M. D. importing, *Jacobus Rex, Maria De Guise.* The east wing of the palace was accidentally burnt in the reign of Charles II. Falkland, which is still of considerable extent, was once a royal burgh: but it lost its privileges by declining to be at the expense of sending a deputy to the Scottish parliament. Abernethey, Newburgh, Auchlerander, Dunblane, and other villages or towns, are now in a similar predicament.

It is unfortunate that luxury and debauchery should so uniformly keep pace with the progress of art and the refinement of manners! What would the manly and dignified, though severe and stern lords, that ruled Scotland in the times of the Congregation and the Covenant, have said, if they had

been told, that among the sons of their great grandchildren, there would be some who should convert their houses into bagnios? The passions, no doubt, surprize even the best men into folly and vice; but for a man of high birth and the best education, day after day, and year after year, not only to keep a haram of a dozen or twenty women in his house, but also to parcel them out among the acquaintance that come to visit him, and call this *proper hospitality*, is shameful in the extreme, and exceeds, even in this loose and dissolute age, the usual measure of profligacy. Such, however, it seems, is the conduct of a right honourable person in Fife, residing, to use the language of the newspapers, not an hundred miles from Falkland.

The Lomonds are a beautiful range of hills extending between Falkland and Lochlevin, a space of about five miles, verdant to the top, and yielding pasture to some herds of cattle and great flocks of sheep. At the eastern and the western extremity they rise into conical summits, that appear like two bastions flanking the curtain of a stupendous wall. The western summit is considerably higher than the eastern; yet the eastern, from its relative position, commands a more variegated prospect, which is compensated to the western summit by that beautiful expanse of water, Lochlevin, which lies immediately below. Though this isolated range of hills does not rise, where highest, more than two hundred feet above the level of the sea, they are so situated as to command, perhaps, the finest prospect in all Scotland; if the fineness of a prospect is not to be measured by mere extent, but by a combi-

nation of extent and variety: a variety of objects not faintly and obscurely, but clearly and distinctly discerned. From the eastern peak you see St. Andrews Bay, the intervening part of Fife, and the coast of Angus; on the south and the west, the counties watered by the Forth, and through openings in the Aichil Hills on the north, long, and unbounded vistas of both the lowland and highland parts of Perthshire. They form a land mark at sea, and are seen by travellers in every direction.

But there is a hill not far from the Lomonds which, for the command of what is called a *home prospect*, is superior even to the Lomonds: this is Norman Law, one of the Aichil Hills, rising boldly to a great height from the Frith of Tay, about three miles east from Newburgh, and opening on the south into the valley that forms the parish of Dunbog. From this hill the whole extent of the Carse of Gowrie, from Perth to Inver Gowry, near Dundee, about twenty miles in length, and on an average three in breadth, is seen below as one luxuriant and well-cultivated garden, green at all seasons, except when it is decked in the livery of yellow autumn. It is bounded and sheltered on the north-west, north, and north-east, by a range of hills winding in a semicircular form from a spur of the Sidley Hills, in Angus, of which they may be considered as a continuation or part, though at no great elevation above the plain until they rise gradually into the hill or cliff of Kinnoull, in which they terminate. These winding acclivities are cultivated from their bottom to their top. The Frith of Tay, with its islands and salmon fisheries, add

both beauty and riches, to this rich and beautiful scene. It is said, that an acre, or any given quantity of land of the Carse of Gowrie, will produce more wheat than an equal quantity of land in any other part of either England or Scotland. If the fertility of such levels bear any proportion to the magnitude of the rivers by whose alluvions they are formed, that position will not seem altogether improbable. It is the *campus frumento nobilis* of the celebrated historian Buchannan.

It is chiefly from the Carse of Gowrie, and the Lower Stratherne, of the same kind of soil with the carse, and divided therefrom only by the Tay, at the mouth of the Erne, that improvements in agriculture have been introduced in Fife. Every where, and at all times, men are more inclined to grasp at wealth by any other means than that of regular and slow industry. Mines, diamonds, pearls, smuggling, and gambling: these and such like play sweetly about the imagination, and allure the sanguine and aventurous more readily than the slow, though surer, modes of acquiring wealth by application to common business. It was probably the advantages enjoyed by Fife, in the possession of coals, salt, fishing, and commerce, whether legitimate or clandestine, that hindered this province so long from applying seriously to grazing and agriculture.

Before I leave the kingdom of Fife, I have just one observation more to make. There is a more equal division of property in this county than in any other of equal extent in Scotland. I say, of equal extent: for, in the small and adjoining counties of Kinross and Clackmannan, which indeed are commonly consider-

ed as a part of Fife, taken geographically, and without reference to political distinctions, landed property is at least divided with as great equality. Here, I mean in the whole of Fife, comprehending Kinross and Clackmannan, there are not any such overgrown estates, towering far above others, as in the southern provinces of Scotland, Argyleshire, Perthshire, Angus, and the northern provinces. The land is divided among a great number of nobility and gentry, and other proprietors, whom the lapse of time has not yet raised above the consideration or rank of opulent tradesmen, and what in England are called yeomen. There are many FEUERS, or proprietors, who hold possessions called feus of SUBJECT superiors, that is, who are vassals of vassals of the crown.

The feus are, with very few exceptions, in a worse state of cultivation than the farms paying rent.

In that beautiful range of hills or hilly country by which Fife, in its most comprehensive sense, is divided from Perthshire, there is still a more equal division of property. This tract, extending between the Forth and the Frith of Tay, is in length upwards of thirty miles, in breadth, at a medium, about five. It may be called the Arcadia of Scotland. Hills verdant to their summits, the lower parts covered with grain, the middle with herds of cattle, and the higher with flocks of sheep; rivulets stealing through the defiles of these hills, or falling in murmurs from rock to rock; solitary hamlets and farmsteads now skirted with natural woods of hazel, oak, birch, and some other kinds interspersed, and now inclosed within their soft embrace; and, above

all, an equal or modest division and distribution of property, conspire to render the Aichil Hills one of the sweetest as well as happiest regions in Britain. The land here is generally parted into small estates from thirty or forty to three or four hundred pounds a year. The low country on either hand opens a vent for the produce of the dairy and the fold. There is not a spot in the Aichils that is above six or eight miles from either Stirling, Perth, Kinross, Cupar of Fife, Alloa, Kincardin, or Dumfermline.

From the highest of the Aichil Hills, Bencleugh, which is situated near the west end of the range, and two thousand four hundred feet above the level of the sea, there is a very extensive view of rural scenery, chiefly pastoral; in which, however, the prevailing or paramount idea is that of stillness and solitude.

The Aichil Hills are commonly called, by writers, willing to adapt every thing to English idioms and etymologies, the Ochills; from the affinity of the sound to that of Oak Hills, combined with the aptitude of this district to run into oak. But this is discovered to be an error, when we attend to the common pronunciation of the people of Scotland, and reflect that, pronunciation often preserves the true etymology of words after it is lost in writings. The people of the country do not say the OCHILLS, nor yet the AICHILS, but the AICHIL HILLS: that is, as is well known to all in the least acquainted with the Celtic, or Gaelic, language, the woody hills.

The Aichil Hills, formerly covered wholly with wood, as they would be still, if left to themselves, was, in all probability, the southern extremity

of the *Sylva Caledonia*, the Caledonian wood, by way of eminence, a term which the Roman writers extended, by degrees, to denote all that part of Britain, that lay to the north of the Forth—Bodotria. At the time of the Roman invasion, by Agricola, the Aichil Hills would strike an army, looking northward, with the appearance of one vast wood. On the banks of the Erne, in the parish of Muthill, there is a place, belonging to a gentleman of the name of Hepburn, called Culhoillie; that is, the back end of the wood. They who are fond of tracing affinities between the Greek and Celtic, which are indeed many and surprising, observe that ΥΛΗ, *Hylé*, is the term for wood, in Greek.

About thirty or forty years ago, the general economy of the Aichil Hills was as follows. The main object was, to raise flocks of sheep, and to make butter and cheese. They sold their wool at the fairs in the low country, and their sheep, too, of course: when they were not bought up, on the spot, as was, however, most commonly the case, by butchers from Stirling, Perth, Dumfermline, Cupar, and other towns. In the summer, having a superabundance of pasturage for cattle, they were in the habit of taking the oxen of Strathern, and the nearest parts of Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, to graze among their own, at the rate of eight or ten shillings per head, from the end of May to about the middle of October. The farmers in the low countries, who, at that time, used oxen chiefly in the plough, had plenty of fodder for them in the winter, but not sufficient pasture for them in summer; for they were then very little skilled in

the best modes of agriculture, and the laying out of fields, after a rotation of crops, a thing little known, and less practised in grass. The farmers in the Aichils, on the other hand, who had abundance of pasturage for their cows in summer, but frequently experienced, in hard seasons, a lack of fodder in winter, would send some of their milch cows to the low country farmers; who, for keeping them, thought themselves well paid, as they certainly were, by the milk they yielded, and the accessions they made to their dunghills. Calves, as well as sheep, were, for the most part, bought up on the spot by butchers. Bullocks were driven, without being properly fattened, to market.

As to offals of the dairy, they had little besides whey, with part of which, instead of water, they made their oaten meal porridge, which was more savoury than water porridge; besides, that there was thus a saving of meal, whey being sooner thickened than water. Still, however, there was a great superabundance of whey, which they gave to any one for nothing; or, when not called for, thrown, when it became sour, into the dunghill. Of their butter, or as they called it, kirn, that is, churn-milk, they had, also, frequently a superabundance; in which case, it was disposed of in the same manner with the whey. Of the feeding of pigs, or poultry, with these substances they had not the smallest conception.

This wretched economy has now, very generally, been exchanged for a wiser system. They have introduced winter crops of turnips; they have crops of hay, clover, and potatoes. They fatten bullocks,

and keep all their milch cows at home, in winter as well as summer. On some farms, they have also learned to make the proper use of the whey and milk they used to throw away, in the fattening of poultry and pigs.

The butter that is produced on the Aichil Hills, by the natural herbage, is excellent; and the cheese, though not so rich as that of some counties in England, is, in many places, far superior in flavour: so also is the mutton; but the mutton bred on the Grampians is of a still superior flavour.

I have not, for more than TWENTY years, had an opportunity of being acquainted with the state of society in the Aichil Hills, personally. I shall therefore, in what I am now going to say, speak in the past time. In the Aichils, about twenty or thirty years ago, there was very little skill in arts, and great simplicity of manners; though, from the nature of pastoral, indolent, and sequestered life, in which the young, of both sexes, were frequently intermixed in rural and retired occupations, there were very many instances of the sin of fornication. In the whole range of the Aichils, there are only two parishes and parish churches, situated among the hills, Glendevon and Arngesk. They belong, in all other parts, to the parishes and parish churches, lying nearest to them in the low countries, to the south and north; as Alva, Dollar, Orwell, Auchter-Muchty, &c. on the one hand; and Blackford, Auchterarder, Dunning, Forteviot, Forgan, Aber-nethey, &c. on the other. Now, in each and all of those parishes, consisting partly of the Aichils, and partly of the low country. The number of

fornicators, doing pennance on the cutty stool,* from the hilly part of the parish, very far *Communibus*

* This is a small gallery, fit to contain about half a dozen of persons, painted black, and on which offenders against chastity are forced to sit, during the time of divine service, for three Sundays, making profession of their repentance, and receive a rebuke, each time, from the minister, in the face of the congregation. Gentlemen, and others of the better sort, that is, in better than ordinary circumstances, are commonly permitted now, though this was by no means the case in the stricter and purer times of the kirk, to commute an appearance on the cutty stool for a pecuniary fine, to be applied to the exigencies of the poor. A good many years back, in the parish of Saline, a very pretty village, at the western extremity of the Cleish hills, running parallel, and at the distance of only from two to three miles from the Aichils, to which they bear a near resemblance, in all respects, there flourished, among other fornicators, a gentleman of small, but independent fortune, about two hundred pounds a year, of landed estate, who had indulged himself in an illicit amour, with a low and dirty wench, the daughter of a strolling piper. The minister of Saline, at that time, was Mr. Hunter, a very worthy man, of great innocence and simplicity of manners, and remarkable for that familiar and colloquial style of preaching, which is ridiculed in a book, called Presbytorian Eloquence; and who considered it as his duty to maintain, with great strictness, the original discipline of the kirk. The girl, being with child, was summoned to the kirk session, which is held every Sunday, after divine service, by the minister and the elders, a kind of lay-brethren, like certain office-bearers, or servants, in monasteries. Being called on to give up the father of the child with which she was pregnant, she named laird Halley. The laird being also summoned to make his appearance, did not deny what he was charged with, but refused to mount the cutty stool, though he had no objections to pay a fine. Mr. Hunter insisted that he should do penance before the congregation. Mr. Halley, dreading excommunication, which in Scotland is a very serious matter, at last agreed to stand on the stool of repentance, and be duly rebuked, on the condition, that the minister should not mention, as is usual in such cases, the name of the woman with whom he had transgressed. Mr. Hunter, who was a good-natured man, conceded that point, and said, he

Annis, exceeded that of the Lowland parts; though these last were, on the whole, upwards of six to one, in point of numbers. But, to do justice to those poor sinners of the Aichils, their anticipations usually terminated in marriage.

Every one who possessed a piece of land, however small, rent free, was called a LAIRD, and his wife, in like manner, a lady. You might have seen, every day, a lady, from the Aichils, with butter, cheese, and eggs, swung over her horse, in a pair of *creels*, that is panniers, and herself mounted with great dignity above the whole, going to market with her articles; with a stuff hood, of large dimensions, turned up only with silk, on her head, and a cloak, also, of woollen stuff, or sometimes in place of this a riding coat, which was reckoned a piece of finery. In the parish of Forteviot, I knew a laird Nelson of Cleugh-Field, whose whole estate did not amount to ten pounds per annum. The old laird, being his son and heir, followed the business of a carpenter; while the dowager lady Cleugh-Field, kept a small public-house, (which was indeed the mansion, or manor-

would not. Mr. Halley appears on the cutty stool: "Mr. James Halley, you appear here before God and this congregation, to confess and declare your contrition for the heinous sin of fornication, wi—— (but here recollecting his promise). I need na say wha wi. We a—a—ken wha wi." This extraordinary turn gave wing to the affair over all the country, far and near. The laird had wrapped himself up in two great coats; the one buttoned before, the other behind; with the neck turned up so as to conceal his face. "Ah! cried Mr. Hunter, weel may ye be ashamit. But turn about your face; I say, Mr. Halley, turn about your face." The laird turned himself about; still he presented a back; "Oho!" says Mr. Hunter, "you're a a-back, are ye? gin ye had been a a-back, ye had na been there."

house,) for selling ale and whisky. By her husband's will, she was very reasonably to keep possession of the premises during her life.

As to the superior order of lairds in the Aichils, they lived in that easy, and most enviable state of mediocrity, between genteel and fashionable life, on the one hand, and poverty, or labour and drudgery on the other; and from that simplicity of manners, which is contented with the necessaries and comforts, and pants not after the superfluities and vanities of life, derived an affluence but seldom known to the possessors of the most ample patrimonial estates.

FROM FALKLAND BY KINROSS TO ABERNETHEY.

FROM Falkland I went next to see Lochlevin, near Kinross, where the unfortunate Mary, queen of Scots, was for some time detained in an island in the middle of it. The isle, in which there is a castle, which in those days was deemed a fortress of great strength, may contain about seven or eight acres of ground. The walls of the castle, half-shaded by a grove of lofty trees, in which it is embosomed, and which cover nearly the whole island, form a very striking and interesting object. It does not seem to be more than about a mile from the shore. The whole circle of the castle is five hundred and eighty-five feet. Every one knows the manner in which the queen made her escape from this strong hold. The *lords of the congregation*, who, otherwise styled themselves, *the lords for the reformation of Scotland*, and at this juncture were called, *the lords of the secret council*, had committed the queen to the custody of William Douglas, governor of the castle, and laird of Lochlevin. George Douglas, a young gentleman, brother to the governor, had fallen in love with her; which, we may presume, in her circumstances, she did not discourage. On the 2d of May, 1568, about seven o'clock after noon, when the governor was at supper with his family, George Douglas, having got hold of the keys of the castle, hastened to her apartment, and conducted her out of prison, and ferried her

over in a boat * to the main land; throwing the keys of the castle into the lake. † William Douglas, the governor of the castle of Lochlevin, had married the mother of the earl of Murray, the queen's natural brother.

Lochlevin is a spacious and beautiful piece of water, washing the roots of the western Lomond, about fifteen miles in circumference, and four in length, interspersed with islands of various appearance and extent. One of these, called St. Serf's Isle, contains forty-eight acres of good pasture. This lake is famous for a great variety of different kinds of trout, for the most part of a bright colour, and all of them highly flavoured. Some of them weigh from two to three pounds. The Loch also abounds with eels, pikes, flounders, and perches. The river Levin, which issues from the lake, is also a stream famous for the sport of trout-fishing. I presume that the king Alexander III. who lived very much in Loch-

* When the people of Kinross point out to strangers this state prison, and describe the mode of the queen's escape, they tell you, that young Douglas swam over to the Kinross side of the lake for a boat. This, like the story of Leander, is very pretty and romantic. There cannot, however, be a doubt, that he must have seized on one of the boats belonging to the castle. There was not time for fetching a boat from the opposite land, had it been necessary. And I mention this foolish tradition, only as an instance of that propensity to the marvellous and romantic, which has always so generally prevailed, especially in matters of war and love.

† These keys, of which there were several fastened together, were accidentally dragged out of Lochlevin, not long ago, by a fisherman, and presented to the earl of Morton, to whose family, the Douglases of Lochlevin were nearly related. They were much less injured by time than could have been expected.

levin castle, a very central situation for Scotland, was as fond of the diversion of fishing as the Stuart kings were of hunting. The lake and the river, or water, as it is called by the Scots of Levin, was as favourable to the former as Falkland Forest and the How of Fife to the latter.

At Kinross, a little way out of town, to the north, is an excellent inn, as good as any that I have seen in England. Neat clean rooms, both public and bed rooms spacious, and an excellent larder and cellar. Besides butcher's meat and fish of all kinds, both sea and fresh water fish, there is always a variety of game. But what strangers generally point out in the bill of fare, in the first place, is, the Lochlevin trout, of which there are many different kinds. The fishery of the lake is rated at one hundred pounds a year by the landlord of the inn, to whom the trout is of great value, not only as a delicate dish for his tables, but because gentlemen who pass that way very often take a dish of fresh trouts home with them in their carriage. This inn is equidistant from Perth and the Queen's Ferry, that is, fifteen miles exactly from each.

Very near the western margin of the lake stands Kinross House, a grand and very elegant mansion, built by Sir William Bruce in the end of the seventeenth century; to which you are led by a fine row of lofty trees, a spacious court, and one of the noblest stone staircases any where to be seen. The lake, the trees, shrubs, and garden grounds, that fringe it in that quarter, the Lomond Hills on the east, the Aichils on the north, and a spacious plain, extending from, and as it were, in some measure, continuing

the How of Fife to the vale of the Devon, and thence forward to Stirling.—These are beautiful and pleasing prospects. Even the great road between Edinburgh, and all that lies northward of the Forth in Scotland, may be ranked among the felicities of this charming mansion. In the vicinity of a great city, the solitude of mountains, woods, and waters, can hardly be too great. At a distance of thirty miles, there is a satisfaction in the reflection that you are not far from the highway that connects you with the gay, active, and busy world.

Kinross seems to be a thriving place. There are considerable manufactures here, of linen, leather shoes, and, above all, of hardware, particularly cutlery, for which it has been long famous. Kinross scissars, razors, and pen-knives, are in greater request in Scotland than those of Sheffield. I presume that they both can and do make at least as good articles at Sheffield, and other places in England. But, perhaps, the manufacturers find it their interest, on the whole, to furnish the Scots with articles, though of an inferior quality, very cheap. But this, I should think, must be a dangerous kind of economy. The loss of reputation in any branch of industry, liberal or mechanical, is incalculable; whereas, the advantage of reputation on the other hand is also incalculable. Perhaps the excellency of the Kinross cutlery may one day encourage some enterprising spirits, such as the very respectable and ingenious family of the Adams, in this neighbourhood, to enlarge the manufacture, and extend the commerce. No doubt but Kinross derives some advantages from the great road that runs through it, as

well as from its being the capital of a small county. The situation of Kinross, in a district abounding with coal, and all the necessaries of life, not far from the Frith of Forth at Inverkeithing on the one hand, and at a still shorter distance from the Frith of Tay, at the port of Newburgh, on the other, is certainly fitted to rouze a spirit of various industry.

Having heard much of the falls and windings of the Devon, within a few miles of my present charming quarters, I went to see them, and found that not one-half of the romantic beauties and uncommon appearances of nature which are to be seen here have been described.

The Devon takes its rise in the Aichil Hills, and, after running ten miles south-east, bends to the west at a place called from hence the *Crook of Devon*, and gliding with many windings through a valley of the greatest fertility, as well as beauty, falls into the Forth, four miles west from Clackmannan, at the distance of a very few miles, and in a line directly south and north from its source. In one part of the valley, the Devon has been obliged to work its way through obstructing rocks. By the current of the water the solid rock has been for miles worn down from fifty to sixty feet almost perpendicular; in some places more. In the lapse, too, of ages it has worn away the softer parts at the bottom, and formed immense pits, into which, one after another, the water tumbles down with astonishing noise and fury. This scenery, wild, awful, and grand beyond all description, is famed far and near; and so naturally do such scenes make an impression on every human

mind, and I had almost said, every human heart, that even the humblest of the peasants and shepherds will come from afar, or go far out of their way, to see the *Rumbling Bridge* and the *Caldron Linn*.

The Rumbling Bridge consists in one arch, thrown over the horrible chasm just described; at this spot, near one hundred feet deep, and very narrow. At the time I viewed it, it had only one parapet, and that not above three feet high. The other had fallen down, I understood, a long time before, and had not then been rebuilt. It is not every one, I fancy, that would like to pass over it, especially on horseback, which is frequently done, with one on each side. But, at this I ceased to wonder, when I was told, that at one place, above this, where the opposite sides of the lengthened chasm almost meet, and embrace one another, there is a wooden bridge thrown over, by which the hardy rustics cross the Devon, without any parapet at all, or even a hand-rail. This, after all, is not more wonderful than the feats performed by sailors, slaters, tylers, and glaziers, every day. The apprehension of danger is wonderfully diminished by familiarity and custom.

But the turbulence of the waters, at the Rumbling Bridge, dashing from rock to rock, or gushing between fragments of rocks, lying at the bottom, ceases to produce its awful effect, when you view the *Caldron Linn*, where the whole river is precipitated, in one sheet, from a height of eighty feet, upon huge stones torn from the face of the rock. The smoke arising from the water, which, at the bottom appears white as snow, exhibits at the top

and above the fall, all the colours of the rainbow.

This cataract is still more enchanting when observed from below. For this purpose the spectator goes down by the north-west side of the dell, where the descent is easy. The immense sheet of water pouring like liquid chrystal from the rock, and receiving after its fall a cloud of white vapour, is contrasted with the dark brown face of the rock, in some parts naked, in others presenting shrubs and pendulous trees. Herons, plovers, wood-pigeons, ravens, crows, daws, swallows, and other birds, are seen over head; but their noise is lost in that of the rushing waters.

The side of the glen opposite to the cataract is of an opposite nature. It is a gentle acclivity, covered with verdant and flowery turf, and strewed, towards the bottom, with mossy stones and fragments of rock, from the sides of which spring wild rose bushes, and other shrubs. The mind does not easily bear continued intensity of application, or weight of impression. It is not very long therefore till you are inclined to turn from the majestic and terrific to the soft and tranquil side of the glen, and to stroll down by the side of the river, which, in the course of three or four hundred yards, sinks into a calm, and steals silently along its softened banks.

I was told that a gentleman, lately gazing at the tremendous chasm through which the Devon runs, a little above the Rumbling Bridge, felt his head grow giddy, and, after having fallen above fifty feet, (but that height not quite perpendicular, I presume) was carried by the white and roaring waters in a dark

hollow, near a mile, over broken rocks and precipices, sometimes standing, and sometimes driven headlong, while his alarmed acquaintance, who saw him as they ran along the side of the chasm, were unable to afford him any assistance. I was told that the gentleman, after all this, coming at last to a place where he caught hold of the root of a tree, was enabled to stop his rapid career down the Tartarean stream, to the inexpressible joy of his companions, who pulled him up, by ropes, about sixty feet, nearly perpendicular, without his having received any injury. However, when the ropes reached him, he was so exhausted and weak, that he was scarcely able to put them under his arms.

There is another great cataract below the Caldron Linn, at a place called the *Deills*, that is, the Devil's Mill, where the water falls forty feet; but, having seen the former, I had not any curiosity to see the latter.

It is reported, in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, that a plan was given in, by Mr. James Watt, to the board of police in Scotland, in 1776, for making the Devon navigable for several miles. The expense by his estimate would not have exceeded two thousand pounds. "Had this plan been carried into execution (says the Rev. Mr. Moodie) a tract of more than ten thousand acres of coal, at present entirely locked up from the sea sale, would have been exposed to the public market; besides many other advantages of trade that must have accrued to the neighbouring country. The extensive iron works begun by the Devon Company, in 1794, on the banks of this river, render it highly

probably that the plan will still be executed." That it has not hitherto been executed, seems to be a proof that there is no apprehension that the coal mines, nearer to the sea-ports on the Forth, will be soon exhausted.

Musing on the wonders of the Devon, and on different systems of geology, I returned to the inn at Kinross.

Next morning, early, I rode leisurely across a plain of sandy soil, or a light gravélly loam, to the village of *Milnathort*, commonly pronounced the *Mills of Forth*. I observed, on my right, near this, the ruins of a castle, surrounded with a number of uncommonly large trees. I learned, afterwards, that this was Burleigh Castle, the antient seat of the Balfours, *Lords of Burleigh*. The large trees that drew my attention, I understand, are many of them hollow with age, particularly one called *Burleigh's Hole*. In this tree, the last lord Burleigh, in the early part of the last century, concealed himself from justice, after he had murdered a schoolmaster, for marrying, without his consent, a favourite female servant. Under a fit of phrenzy, he rode, armed with loaded pistols, to the schoolmaster's house, at Innerkeithing, desired to speak with him at the door, shot him, without dismounting from his horse, and rode back to Burleigh Castle, as if nothing extraordinary had happened. By and by, recollecting his crime, and his danger, he hid himself for some time in the hollow of an old tree; a faithful domestic, who had compassion on him, supplying him with sustenance. Being apprehended, and tried for the murder at Edinburgh, he was condemned to

suffer death. But while he lay in confinement in prison, between the sentence and the execution, his sister, who was wonderfully like him, went to see him, and he made his escape out of prison, disguised in her clothes. It was said that this escape was not effected without GOLDEN KEYS. Certain it is, that no means were used for taking up the unhappy man, after his escape. His estate being confiscated, and having past into other hands, he wandered about from the house of one gentleman to that of another, as, in fact, a beggar, as well as a vagabond. I have conversed with old men who have seen lord Burleigh in this miserable state.

In my way from the Mills of Forth to Abernethey, which lay mostly through hills, with only patches of cultivated ground, here and there, at their bases, near sequestered hamlets, I fell in with one of the most elegant as well as convenient carriages, I ever saw, which, I learned, belonged to Frazer of Lovat. Among all our modern improvements, there is, perhaps, none that has attained to greater perfection than coach building. In the streets of London, we find carriages of almost every possible shape, and we are led to admire the ingeniousness of men who can contrive such light, strong, neat, and elegant vehicles.

But what I saw now had this additional advantage, that it served not only for an elegant conveyance, but also as a very convenient dormitory. It was made after the manner of carriages at St. Petersburgh, and had a projection before at the bottom; by means of which, with a bed which lay in it, and could be spread or rolled up at pleasure; two or three

people could lie down, and sleep very comfortably, at whatever rate the carriage might be going. It was not by such machinery, however, or manners that the family estate of Lovat was acquired.—Luxury is but a bad omen of the stability of estates.

"Nam imperium facilé iis artibus retinetur quibus initio partum est."*

On clearing the Aichils, where the great road from the Queen's Ferry to Perth begins to descend into the extensive and most charming valley of Stratherne, near a place called the Wics of Baigly, a view bursts on the sight, that makes you suddenly stop, as if by instinct, to behold it. The valley of the lower Stratherne, rich by nature, highly cultivated, and beautifully interspersed with noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, is seen in a line, from east to west, with the Carse of Gowrie; from which it is separated only by the Tay, a little before and after it begins to expand into a Frith, by receiving the tide and the waters of the Erne. The tide flows in the Tay for two miles above Perth, that is about eight miles above its junction with the Erne, and about as far up this river. In front, you see the celebrated Hill of Moncrieff, on the south-west a lofty cliff; but gradually declining from its precipitous summit, into a gentle declivity, every where planted with trees, or bearing grain, and occupying the whole triangle, formed by the Tay on the one side, the Erne on the other, and the great road between the bridge of Erne, and where the Tay bends more than

* Sall. Bell. Catall.

it did eastward, at the village or farmstead of the Friartown. Where the southern aspect of the Hill of Moncrieff begins to present verdant turf, and a possibility of ascent, instead of precipitous and inaccessible rocks, the soil, above Kilmont, is shaped into a number of terraces, rising over one another, too regular to admit the supposition that they are the work of nature, yet too great and vast to be ascribed to art: if we may not suppose them to have formed part of some military operations; for they are seen distinctly, and solicit attention across the valley of the Erne, viewed from the Wics of Baigly. Perhaps they were an encampment of the Danes: monuments of whose invasions are every where to be seen in this part of Scotland; as, for instance, the petrified ruins of Danish castles, on the summits of the hills near Abernethey, and in other parts of the Aichils, for the whole extent of Stratherne.

That the Danes were wont to sit down on Moncrieff Hill, certainly a most excellent military station, we know from history.

Among the beautiful scenes presented to the traveller, on coming from the south to the spot above mentioned, next to the Hill of Moncrieff, the castle of Duplin, with the Den, and extensive woods, Moncrieff House, on a rising ground near the bottom of the cliff, the peninsula of the western Rynd, and the eastern Rynd, on the point of land at the conflux of the Erne and the Tay, both of them gentlemen's heads, adorned with a great variety of fruit and forest trees, are conspicuously prominent.

Having descended into the vale of Stratherne, I turned from the great northern and military road to the right, and struck into that which runs eastward

from this by Abernethey and Newburgh to Cupar, in Fife. Where the small river Farg begins to hasten to the plain through the northern slope or roots of the Aichils, the ground is covered with beautiful plantations of various forest trees. Above Aberargie, the hill, which is very steep as well as of very considerable elevation, is covered nearly to the summit with trees of various kinds, planted, according to the old custom, in rows. At the bottom of the hill stands the house of Pottie, a spacious and not inelegant mansion; and near this begins the opening into the dreary glen of Abernethey, the most common pass through the Aichil Hills from Perth to Edinburgh, before the fine northern road, and afterwards the bridge of Perth, invited travellers to go by the Queen's Ferry instead of Kinghorn. Not a house or hut is to be seen in this gloomy gaut between Abernethey and the slope of the road on the southern side of the hills near Strathmiglo, a space of four miles. Here the pretty seat of the late general Skene, alluded to above, now occupied, I understand, by a gentleman of the same name and family, with the neatly inclosed, and well cultivated fields belonging to it, make a pleasing impression after so dismal a contrast.

ABERNETHEY.

At the northern extremity of this glen, and at the bottom of a great hill, rising, on the western side, abruptly from the rivulet Nethey, stands ABERNETHEY, the famous capital of the Cis-Grampian

Picts, and the metropolitan see of the christian church in Scotland, before it was translated, after the expulsion of the Picts, to St. Andrews. These facts are authenticated beyond all doubt by many records, and the concurring voice of all historians; yet is there not any other Pictish monument to be found at Abernethey besides the round tower, or rather column, so often mentioned by antiquarians and travellers. It is hollow in the inside, and without a staircase: it is built of hewn free stone, and tapers towards the top. It seemed to me to be about eighty feet high; but, for an account of its exact dimensions, and a variety of conjectures concerning its use or end, I must refer to the writings of antiquarians.

The situation of Abernethey, for the capital of a nation from Scandinavia, was naturally and well chosen. The bay of St. Andrews, and the Frith of Tay, within a mile of which Abernethey is situated, is exactly opposite to the sea that opens an easy communication with Denmark, Sweden, and the west part of Norway,* countries with which the Pictish conquerors and colonists would naturally be desirous of keeping up an easy intercourse; not, perhaps, for the purpose of commerce, of which there was very little in those times, but of aid, when necessary, and protection. In the same manner we may presume that our colonies in North America clung closely at first to the mother country. The steep and high hill, almost overhanging the capital, was a natural fortress. The whole plain of Strath-

* The Scaggerre, or Cat-gate, through which lies the passage from the German Ocean into the Sound, or entrance of the Baltic.

more, and particularly the Carse of Gowrie and Stratherne, afforded a plentiful store of provisions; and the glen, as well as another passage where Macduff's Cross now stands, between Abernethey and Newburgh, opened an easy communication with *Pichtlandia*, now called Fife.

The town of Abernethey, seen at a distance, appears like a grove of trees. It consists of one street, with a few narrow alleys, or wynds. It is divided among as many proprietors almost as there are householders, and these, I think, must be about a hundred. Every one has a garden behind his house, narrow, but of great length, sloping northward to the plain, or rising gently on the lowermost parts of the great hill on the south, which they call the *Muckle Benn*, or *Binn*. They have also, most of them, some acres of land, from three to five or six, adjoining to the town. The Muckle Binn is common to all the burgesses of Abernethey. It affords pasture for sheep and a few young bullocks. It has been the custom for ages, I suppose, and certainly for many years, for the lairds of Abernethey, in imitation, no doubt, of lords and greater lairds, to decorate their residences with rows of trees, one planted on each side for the whole extent of their gardens; so that, before you enter Abernethey, it looks liker a wood than a town. It is a burgh of barony, holding of the lord of BALVAIRD, an old castle in the neighbouring hills, belonging to the family of Stormont, now Mansfield. Lord Balvaird is one of his titles. In this small village there are not less than three churches, or kirks: the established church, in the yard or

burying-ground of which stands the Pictish tower; the Seceder Kirk; and the Kirk of Relief.

As Abernethey was once the religious metropolis of the Seceders, as well as the metropolitan see of Scotland in the time of the Picts, I shall here mention some leading features in the doctrine and character of a sect still very considerable, once so numerous as to equal the whole established church, and that has, from Scotland, ramified into England and all countries speaking the English language.

It might, perhaps, be sufficient to observe, in general, that the Seceders are religionists, whose great aim is, to restore not only the severe and gloomy spirit of the *Covenant*, so famous in the history of Scotland, but the Covenant itself. At a certain age, every Seceder, male and female, swears to observe the Covenant. Nay, they hold it a duty to renew or take the solemn league and covenant from time to time. Scotland, say they, is a covenanted kingdom. One of their principal leaders, Mr. Moncrieff, the laird of Culfargie, and minister at the same time of Abernethey, near which his estate, one of the most considerable in that parish, lay, when they first broke off from the kirk, was not restrained, without much difficulty, from going to London, in order to call upon the king, George II. to take the Covenant.

Their ecclesiastical theory is a mixture of Popish tenets with those of English Dissenters and Congregationalists. They maintain, that it is not the king and other lay patrons, but the christian people in their respective congregations, that have the right

of nomination to ecclesiastical benefices; and that the Kirk ought not to pay any regard to royal proclamations for thanksgivings, or for fasts. All these things, they maintain, fall within the councils of the church in national concerns; and to those of synods and presbyteries in those that are local. The only head of the church, they observe, is Jesus Christ, and the church ought to be governed solely by his ministers. They are severe disciplinarians, insisting on offenders, if not doing public penance, yet professing their repentance, on receiving a private rebuke and admonition, on account of little slips of life, too common (though, no doubt, both immoral and irreligious) to excite any general or lively abhorrence. Nay, they see sin where others do not perceive it. They hold it to be a great sin for men and women to dance together, which they call promiscuous dancing, and the common people dancing *promisky*, as being wholly incompatible with a holy frame of mind. The dancing of men with men, and women with women, they tolerate, though even this they do not altogether approve.

The fervour of every sect, religious, political, or philosophical, is greatest in its first ebullitions. The discipline of the Seceders is now so far relaxed, that it is no difficult matter for a rich man, like sinners in the Romish Church, to escape public penance by presents to the minister; thereby induced to lend a deaf ear, and even to be active in quashing scandalous reports: which naturally gives great offence to the poorer Seceders. Indeed, it is scarcely possible for the poor ministers to be very severe towards

the rich men of their flocks, on whom chiefly they depend for their support, for the most part miserable.

With regard to spiritual doctrines, they are rigid Antinomians, stiffly maintaining the *particular* or *arbitrary* election of some individuals, in preference to others, without any regard whatever to merit or demerit.

The Seceders are very fond, like all religious fanatics, of applying to themselves passages in the prophetical writings of the Old Testament. There is a passage in some of the prophets to this purpose. "Though Israel were as the sand of the sea, a remnant only shall be saved." Hence they affect to call themselves *the witnessing remnant*, witnessing and protesting against the errors and corruptions of the church.

They are very scrupulous about the characters of those to whom they administer the sacraments, or rather about the state of their soul respecting matters of faith; carrying their inquiries on this point almost the full length of auricular confession; particularly inquiring into the date or moment of their conversion, and whether they be sure, or at least pretty sure, of their being among the number of the elect.

They condemn private baptism, nor will they admit those who are notoriously ignorant or profane, to be sponsors for their children.

They also condemn all clandestine and irregular marriages, though recognized and held valid by the law of Scotland: nor will they marry any persons unless they have been proclaimed in the parish

church on two different Sundays, or as they call them, *Lord's Days.*

About seventy years ago, this sadly-serious sect, actuated, it is to be acknowledged, by the purest and most honourable motives, seceded from the established church. As Perth was the *punctum saliens* from which the Reformation proceeded in the days of John Knox, so it was also the starting post of this reformation of the Reformation. In 1732, Mr. Ebenezer Erskine, minister of Portmoak, at that time moderator of the synod of Perth and Stirling, opened the meeting at Perth with a sermon from Psalm cxviii. 22. "The stone which the builders rejected is become the head-stone of the corner;" in which he inveighed with great boldness against certain abuses that had crept into the church, particularly an act of the preceding assembly relating so the settlement of ministers; alleging, that it was contrary to the word of God, and the established constitution of the Kirk. Mr. Erskine was cordially joined and supported by Mr. William Wilson, minister of Perth, Mr. Alexander Moncrieff, minister at Abernethey, and Mr. James Fisher, minister at Kineleven. A number of other ministers joined these, and the sect of the Seceders increased rapidly.

The general assembly of the church of Scotland, both by their proceedings and by a formal decree, had declared that, according to the rules of the church, a patron's presentation to an ecclesiastical benefice was a sufficient ground for proceeding to the ordination of a minister in a parish, not only without the concurrence of a majority of the heads of families, or even of heritors and elders; but not-

withstanding their opposition, however unanimous and steady. The Seceders considered this as a violation of the constitution established at the Revolution, and as subversive of the most sacred principles of religious liberty. As such, they protested against it. Their protests were not allowed to be inserted in the records of the court. They availed themselves of the liberty of the pulpit and the press. They were censured for their presumption. They refused to submit to censure. They maintained what they had done. They were suspended, deposed, and finally expelled from the church of Scotland. The seceding ministers erected themselves into an ecclesiastical court, which they called the *Associated Presbytery*. They also published what they called an *Act, Declaration*, or *Testimony*, to the Doctrine, Worship, and Discipline of the Church of Scotland; and against several instances, as they said, of defection from these, both in former and the present times. They afterwards, when their doctrines had spread far, designed themselves the *General Associated Synod*. This is now their supreme court, having under its jurisdiction three provincial synods, one in Scotland, and one in Ireland.

In 1745, the Seceders split into two parties. The burgess oath in some of the royal burghs of Scotland contains the following clause: "I profess and allow, with my heart, the true religion presently professed within this realm, and authorized by the laws thereof. I will abide and defend the same to my life's end, renouncing the Romish religion called Papistry." Some of the seceded ministers affirmed that this clause was no way contrary to the princi-

ples on which the secession was formed; others, that it was a virtual renunciation of their act and testimony. They who assert the lawfulness of taking the burgess oath are called BURGHERS; their opponents, ANTI-BURGHERS. The Burghers, who never approved of *covenanting*, any more than scruples about taking the burgess oath, consider the Anti-Burghers as too rigid: the Anti-Burghers think the Burghers too lax. The Anti-Burghers excommunicated the Burghers, on account of their sins in taking the burgess oath, and neglecting to renew the covenant. But each party lays claim to the lawful constitution of the *Associate Synod*. The Burghers are most numerous on the south side of the Tay: the Anti-Burghers on the north. The region between the Tay and the Forth is the hottest quarters of religious zeal and controversy in Scotland.

On the secession, the place fixed on for the education of candidates for the ministry was Abernethey. A very spacious church was built, chiefly at the expense of Mr. Moncrieff, the ejected minister, who, as already observed, was a man of very considerable landed property in the parish: in fact, I believe the principal heritor; for in this part of Stratherne, as in Fife, to which it is contiguous, there are not any great lords or lairds, at least there were not any great ones then. The earl of Weemys has since extended his domains from Elcho, across the Erne, in a south-westerly direction, to the summit of the Aichils, and among other estates picked up that of Culfargie, sweetly situated

in very rich ground at the conflux of the water or rivulet of the Farg and the Erne.

In the new kirk of Abernethey, or the vestry, called the Session House, lectures in theology were given three or four times a week to the students, during the session, by Mr. Moncrieff, and Mr. Wilson, of Perth, who were appointed professors of divinity by the Associated Synod. There was also, at what was now called the College of Abernethey, a professor of philosophy, that is, of logic and metaphysics. The students of philosophy were not taught in the church, but in the house of the professor. They lodged with the burghers of Abernethey, or with the farmers in the neighbourhood.

It was not the business or object of the professor of philosophy to point out the legitimate mode of philosophical investigation, and trace the progress of science, but only to skim over some systems then in vogue, of dialectics, ontology, and pneumatology. The great object was, to prevent the minds of the students from being seduced into any speculations that might ultimately tend to lessen their reverence for the covenant. Mr. Moncrieff generously administered to the wants of the students when they stood in need, as they often did, of his assistance. In his declining years, they sometimes received the benefit of his instructions, not in the new church of Abernethey, but in his own house, at Culfargie. They also attended, sometimes, on Mr. Wilson, at his house in Perth, about seven miles distant. On the death of Mr. Alexander Moncrieff, though he was succeeded by his

son, Mr. Matthew Moncrieff, in his clerical function among the Seceders, the Divinity College was translated from Abernethey to Alloa, where it was conducted by Mr. William Moncrieff, a younger brother of Matthew's, and esteemed not only a more profound scholar, but a more zealous abettor of the covenant; yet, for many years thereafter, the philosophy of the Seceders continued to be taught at Abernethey. One of their professors, a Mr. Pirie, though he had received no other education than what he got among the Seceders, being naturally intelligent and acute, attained to not a little notice in Scotland by a printed controversy, which he carried on with lord Kaims, about liberty and necessity. The great text book for philosophy, at the College of Abernethey, was Locke's Essay on Human Understanding.

After the death of Mr. Alexander Moncrieff, one of the principal fathers, and certainly the principal patron of the secession, the rigid tone that marked its first establishment at Abernethey was greatly relaxed. Mr. Matthew Moncrieff, though a firm believer in all the distinguishing doctrines of the Seceders, was, by nature, social, frank, and candid; a man of lively passions, and prone to a reciprocation of civilities and good offices with all his neighbours. Mr. Matthew, a laird as well as a minister, was a bit of a sportsman; and though he did not dare to shoot, he enjoyed sometimes the diversion of coursing with a couple of greyhouuds which he kept, to the great scandal of his congregation, and other Seceders. One Sunday, as he was crossing the Aichils, to assist at the Seceder sacra-

ment, at Auchtermuchty, a hare started from under his horse's feet, and he could not refrain from aiming a lash at her with his whip, and even galloping a few paces after her as she fled. This was reported by the servant who accompanied him on his return to Abernethey. It was a great offence, and a subject of much sorrow. Mr. Matthew was rebuked by the associated presbytery, and obliged to profess contrition. Matthew roared so incessantly against the established church, lustily thumping the pulpit, and was withal of so open and kindly a disposition, that he was a general favourite among the Seceders of all parts. Some of the more hypochondriac, when he was mentioned, would say, shaking their heads, "Aye, he is a man that would gar ony body like him:—But oh! that beast," meaning the hare. Others, not quite so strait-laced, would say, "Hoot! he's no a wrang man, for a the beast." This became a proverb in all the middle parts of Scotland, and is so at this day. Speaking of any one who, though subject to some failing, is a good sort of a person on the whole, they say, "He's no a wrong man for a the beast."

Mr. Moncrieff's lady, a very handsome woman, a daughter of Mr. Scott, of Cotts, in the East Nook of Fife, was of a disposition quite congenial, and, added to this, a very extraordinary share of true wit and humour. The sociability and the frankness of Matthew, and the gaiety and wit of Mrs. Moncrieff, were united in Mr. Gray, the minister of the established church of Abernethey, who inherited, like his predecessor, a paternal

estate. Though but a very small one, and not at all to be compared with that of Culfargie, it was a good help to his stipend, and with both under the management of his lady, an excellent woman, being both genteel in her manners and prudent in her conduct, he was enabled to indulge, in no small degree, his natural turn to the hospitable intercourses of society. The families at the parsonage of Abernethey and at Culfargie lived together in the greatest intimacy; which was considered by the Seceders as a great backsliding on the part of their pastor. The strictness, the dismal tone, and the hypocrisy, too, of the Seceders, served Mrs. Moncrieff (who had professed herself to be a Seceder only out of complaisance to her husband), as an inexhaustible fund of merriment. There were other two persons in this neighbourhood besides the minister of the establishment and the Seceding minister's wife, highly distinguished by wit and humour. They were also distinguished by eccentricities in their character and conduct, which sometimes gave their sallies a wider course, and still more celebrity. These were, Mr. Friar, laird of Invernethey, and Mr. Kier, laird of the Western Rynd. These four persons were not unfrequently to be found in company together; and certainly, if a stranger passing through this parish had happened to fall in with this society, he would have been apt to set Abernethey down, not for the most dismal and hum-drum, but the merriest place in Britain.

When Mr. Gray came first to Abernethey, the

students avoided him as they would have done Satan: but on perceiving his intimacy with their own minister, and understanding, also, that he was reckoned a man of good parts, as well as a regular university education, some of them, the most intelligent we may suppose, sought his acquaintance, which, frank as he was, they easily obtained. Mr. Gray observed to one of these students, of whose capacity he had formed a good opinion, that there could not be a better course of practical logic, or a better introduction to reasoning and investigation on all subjects, than to study Euclid's Elements of Geometry. The student said, he certainly would. Mr. Gray sent him an Euclid. In eight days time he brought it back. "What," said Mr. Gray, "have you done with Euclid already?"—"O yes," said the other, "I have read all the enunciations, which seem to be true enough, and very good reading. I did not trouble myself with the A's and B's."

Since the Seceder College was moved from Abernethey, it has been, on the whole, in an ambulatory state; moving from place to place, according to the residences of the persons appointed professors. It has happened in a good number of instances, that seceders, intending their sons for the ministry, have sent them to one or other of the universities.

But this measure, which certainly shews not a little liberality for a seceder, proves almost uniformly fatal to the good man's design. The youth, in the course of their attendance at the universities, are either reasoned out of the peculiar tenets of their fathers, or laughed out of them; or, perhaps they acquire some degree of indifference to religious dis-

putes, and are contented, in *rebus dubiis*, to embrace that system which promises, in an ecclesiastical benefice, the most convenient retreat, for the study of very intricate controversies. Among seceder ministers, I find, that there are some now who have obtained the degree of DOCTOR, from some one or other (Aberdeen I presume, or St. Andrews) of our universities. This doctorship may be considered as a capital æra in the history of the seceders. This affectation of human distinction, and being called *Rabbi*, this acceptance of an honour, such as it is, from universities in close alliance, and, indeed, forming a part of the established church, would not have passed, in the pure periods of the secession, without severe animadversion; nay, probably even the total expulsion of the doctor from the *witnessing remnant*.

After refreshing myself and my companion, I mean my poney, at Abernethey, where, I shall only say, tea, and butter, and bread, formed only a slight proportion of my repast, at a very hospitable, though inelegant inn, or, indeed, rather ale-house, I went on, on the Cupar road, to take a peep into this part of the north boundary of Fife. Of the eastern part I had formed some idea, in some excursions to Dundee, when a student at St. Andrews. In about half an hour after, leaving Abernethey, I arrived at Newburgh, a royal burgh, as above observed, though it does not now send a representative to parliament. In this ride, the course of the Tay was opened to my view, as far as the craggy hill and castle of Kinfauns, the usual residence of lord Gray, and part of the grand cliff of Kinnoull, within less than two miles of Perth. On the opposite bank of the Tay,

The Grand Cliff of Kinnoull from the South East, with a Prospect of the Tay, after its Junction with the Erne.

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about a mile below, is seen the massy old castle of Elcho, now in ruins, belonging, and giving the title of lord Elcho to the eldest son of the earl of Weemyss; and the whole east and north-east slope of the hill of Moncrieff, divided into neatly-inclosed and well-cultivated fields, interspersed with stripes of trees, or surmounted with large plantations of wood. I had a view also of BALTHAIK and GLENDOICK, gentlemen's seats, the former situated above a lake, in a kind of recess of the hills, that bound the Carse of Gowrie, and the other, at the bottom of one of these; both residences adorned with extensive and thriving plantations. The fine house and gardens, formerly belonging to Mr. Crawfurd, of Auchnames, at Errol, would also be distinctly seen, if they were not concealed with groves and allies of lofty trees.

NEWBURGH.

Newburgh consists of one very long street, on the south bank of the Tay, with suburbs at each end, and a lane, near the east end, leading to the shore. A hill rises on the south, the base of which, in that quarter, is covered with gardens and orchards, belonging to the citizens of Newburgh. On the shore are three continuous piers, which form very safe stations for trading vessels of almost any size. Many of these unload part of their cargoes here, before they proceed up to Perth, which does not admit of ships above two hundred tons. The principal manufacture of Newburgh is that of Silesias, Osnaburgs, and brown linens. A considerable trade

in wood and iron is carried on at the shore; and wheat, barley, and malt, are exported to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Almost adjoining to the town of Newburgh, on the south-east, is a lofty precipice, or cliff, the grandest and most majestic I ever saw, except that of Kinnoull. The hill, which it terminates, is by no means to be compared, for extent or height, with that of Kinnoull: but the cliff is not inferior in proportion to these circumstances. The cliff of Kinnoull rises to a prodigious height above the level of the Tay, and the road that runs at its foot; but a mass, or mound of matter, composed of stones that have fallen from the rock in the lapse of ages, rises from the bottom in a slope, or as the section of a cone, the summit of which reaches at one part near midway to that of the rock; whereas, that of Newburgh is perpendicular, almost to the very bottom, and hangs over the traveller below, with a more frowning and terrific aspect. The fissures, or clefts of the rock, bear shrubs, and even tall trees, inhabited by kites, rooks, wood-pigeons, and other birds, whose cooing and cawing never ceases. I walked up to the top of this cliff, and creeping as near as I thought safe, on my hands and feet, looked far down, on the top branches of ashes and other trees, and enjoyed the economy of the birds in their nests, fetching food to their young, or teaching them to fly.

Near the base of the cliff, there is a rivulet, on which there are some mills, issuing from the Loch or Lake of Lindores, about a mile to the right, and running through a very narrow but deep den or dell, which, at the Rock of Newburgh, expands into a flat of about sixty or seventy acres, of very rich

land, of the same nature with that of the Carse of Gowrie, on the opposite side of the Tay. So, also, no doubt, is the island of Mugdrum, in the middle of the river, opposite to Newburgh, which appears to be about two miles in circumference; though it is never ploughed, being subject, I suppose, to inundations, but appropriated to pasturage, to which it is well adapted. This island, with the cattle grazing on it, adds not a little to the beauty of this rich scene, of which it forms a part. At the north side of the Loch of Lindores is an old mansion, but still, or lately, inhabited. This was formerly the residence of the Lindsays, lords of Lindores.

The hilly district around the Loch of Lindores, which appears to be about two miles in circumference, forms the sequestered parish of Abdie.

The corn fields of the level, and rich tract of land between the hills and the Tay, just mentioned, are every where interspersed with very old fruit trees. This is not an uncommon thing in the cyder counties in England. But it appeared to me a great wonder, as certainly it is, in Scotland. I was not, however, at a loss to account for this appearance, when I was told, that the ruins I had seen, not far from my majestic *speculatorium*, were those of the rich Abbey of LINDORES. It is well known that the monks imported into this country, as well as others, at a very early period, the arts of Italy, particularly those of gardening and agriculture.

About two miles below Newburgh, on the south bank of the Tay, just by the river, yet on an elevated and commanding situation, where a hill juts a little into the Frith, stands one of the most venerable,

grand, and impressive monuments of former times, that I ever saw in Scotland. I have seen it from a variety of points of view, and it always commanded my attention. This is the old and ruinous Castle of Bambriech, with its thick wood fringing the Tay, and extending a good way up the hill behind the castle. It appears to have been of very great dimensions, and is said to have been a very strong place. It formerly belonged to the family of Rothes; but Bambriech, with other lands in this corner of Fife, have now passed into the hands of lord Dundas.

One cannot travel long in any habitable part of Scotland, without seeing ruined castles and other mansions. But there seems to be a much greater number of these in Fife than in any other part of Scotland. This is no doubt connected, in some degree, with a circumstance I had occasion to notice before; namely, that landed property is more equally divided, that is, divided among a greater number of hands in Fife, including Kinross and Clackmannan, than in any other district of Scotland. There is a greater number of old castles, because there was formally a greater number of new ones.

Among the peculiarities of Fife, it has also been noticed by every one, that there are more dove-cots, or pigeon-houses, than in any other county in Scotland. Every gentleman, feuer, and substantial farmer, has his dove-cot: and certainly a flourishing dove-cot is very convenient in house-keeping. But when once the Fife farmers become in general as good agriculturalists as they are in the Lothians, Stirlingshire, Airshire, and the lower parts of Perth-

shire, &c. &c. Fife will probably become less famous for its dove-cots.

Perhaps the splitting of the land into so many estates, in Fife, may have been owing to that superiority in commerce which Fife, before the union, enjoyed above any other part of Scotland; the ports of Leith and Dunbar, and, perhaps one or two more only excepted.

At Newburgh, as well as every other little town, or village of any consideration, situated at some passage into the Aichils, on either side, in their whole extent from Stirling to the Frith of Tay, there is a number of places of worship for different sects of religion. The sect of which I heard most, on inquiry at Newburgh, was the Bereans. It was founded by a Mr. John Barclay, a native of the parish of Muthill, in the Upper Stratherne, a man of lively parts, and sanguineous temperament, who was educated at the university of St. Andrews, where he was accounted an excellent scholar, and who was ordained to be a preacher, or probationer in the established church. Having officiated as assistant to different ministers, for many years, he broke off from communion with the kirk, and established a congregation of his own, which branched into a number of other congregations. In points of ecclesiastical order, government, or administration, he seems to have coincided very nearly, if not entirely, with the Sandemanians, or Glassites; if this be not peculiar to the Bereans, that a mere assent to the historical and doctrinal truths of the gospel, is sufficient for salvation, without any of that extraordinary and almost violent working of faith, which, according to certain systems, takes place in the first moments of *effectual calling* and conversion,

accompanied with lively emotions, which gradually sink into the habitual calm of what they call the *faith of assurance.* Any person, according to the Bereans, may be sufficiently assured of going to heaven, if he will only believe what is set forth in the gospel, and take God's word for it. But the pride of man is such, they affirm, that it is not every one who will humble himself so far as to accept of salvation, without fancying that he himself, forsooth, must in some shape or other contribute to his own safety. The Bereans, therefore, account it equally weak and sinful to doubt of their going to heaven, even when they fall into divers temptations. It is only rising again, and looking forward to paradise, the prospect of which will weaken and subdue worldly passions, and prepare them for the company of the just. They are, therefore, in all circumstances or situations, drunk or sober, as merry as grigs. This, too, as far as I have been able to learn, is very much the case or way of thinking of the Sandemanians. The Sandemanians and Bereans are among Christian sectaries what the Epicureans were among antient philosophers. They live well, and are merry. They are very amorous.

The Bereans, like the Sandemanians, celebrate the Lord's Supper in a social and familiar manner, every Sunday, handing about bread and glasses of wine to one another, while they chat about the church, and heaven, like a number of men and women chatting and helping one another to dishes of tea. As to the community of wordly goods, professed by the Sandemanians, like many other religious sects, at their first outset, it is now frittered away to nothing. There is no one among either the Bereans, or Sande-

manians, who is either called, or performs the exclusive functions of our ministers. Persons who, from age or character, acquire distinguished consideration in the church, take a more than ordinary share in all the common concerns, under the name of deacons and elders.

At Crieff, about thirty years ago, adjoining to the native place of John Barclay, there was a flourishing congregation or church of Bereans; in which the most active member was one Peter Thomson, a tailor. Peter harangued the church both oftener and longer than any other of the brethren; and on Peter too was devolved the principal care of the church in external matters: among which, the providing of bread and wine for the meetings, on Sunday, was sometimes none of the least arduous; for the Bereans of Crieff were all of them miserably poor.

In the village of Crieff there was a very genteel public-house, kept by J—n T—e. John was a good-natured, jolly, and frank fellow, very apt to speak his mind without reserve, or premeditation. One Sunday evening, Peter Thomson, who had already got a great many bottles of wine from this house, upon trust, made his appearance, seeking more wine, also on tick. Mr. T—e, who had dined in his usual style, immediately replied, "Deill a drap now *pate!* until you pay for what you have had already. Ye're a bra man to mak a minister o', that either canna' or winna' pay for your communion elements." Peter on this, went to Mrs. T—e, a very clever, decent, and lady-like woman, related the rudeness of her husband, in refusing wine for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and concluded with stating the number of bottles of port that he now wanted.—Mrs. T—e, after a short silence, said,

"Truly, Peter, I do not think it decent in such as you to take upon you the administration of the sacrament; and, upon reflection, I think it a very wrong thing to encourage you in such presumption." Peter returned to the congregation, collected four shillings and sixpence, and went back to the public-house for two bottles of wine, which he received, without any opposition or remonstrance on the part of Mrs. T—e, on the ground of indecency.

The principal elder, deacon, or administrator of the Berean church at Newburgh, is Mr. Alexander Pirie,* the same Alexander Pirie who had formerly been professor of philosophy in the college of Abernethey. When once a man of a speculative turn is loosened from the religious system in which he has been educated, and boldly ventures on the unlimited ocean of inquiry and exploration, he seldom stops till he has gone through many changes of opinion; and, sometimes, not without falling at last into religious scepticism. Mr. Pirie, quitting the Antiburghers, became a Burgher; he then joined the Kirk of RELIEF, that differs from the established church only on the point of ecclesiastical patronage; and at last became a Berean. Mr. Barclay had long and strenuously laboured to infuse Berean doctrines into the people of Errol, both when he was assistant to Mr. Jobson, the minister, and afterwards; but without the smallest success. It was not long, or with much difficulty, that Mr. Pirie established a Berean church at Newburgh. There seems to be something in the air of the Carse of Gowrie, the Bæotia of Scotland, inimical to religious innovation;

* I have since heard that he died in 1805.

which is more easily introduced on the south and west banks of the Tay. All the masculine powers and fervid eloquence of John Knox were unable at first to cross the Tay. Gowrie, and the Carse of Gowrie, lay in a state of torpor for many years, after the flame of reformation had spread in a south-westerly direction, from Perth to Stirling, and Glasgow.

In 1795, professor Pirie published a small volume, intituled, "The French Revolution exhibited in the Light of the Sacred Oracles, &c." In the thirteenth or fourteenth verses of the sixteenth chapter of the Revelation, John tells us, that he saw "three unclean spirits, like frogs, that were the spirits of devils working miracles." Now, says Mr. Pirie, "frogs are a natural emblem of Frenchmen, as frogs furnish a dish of food very common in that country; and perhaps no nation partakes so much of that reptile. Frogs dwell in, and issue from, low, unclean, and loathsome cells: and what cells more unclean and loathsome than those of the Jacobins, Cordeliers, and disguised Jesuits, from whence the Convention sprung? Again, frogs puff themselves up with air, are boastful, loquacious, yet still repeating the same harsh uncouth notes; and tell me when or where any society, or even rabble of men, has ever dunned our ears with such a profusion of big swelling words of vanity as the Convention?—Spawning tadpoles of constitutions, they have stunned us with the most vociferous, harsh, and hideous sounds. Terror is the word of the day. A little more blood. No mercy! No humanity! This is surely the voice of the bull-frog, whose croaking is terrific, and whose voracity is insatiable."

It is one of the most prominent, perhaps the most prominent trait in the character of our religious fanatics, that they see every passing event in the scriptural prophecies, and draw the whole of these into the narrow vortex of their own times, and sometimes even the particular concerns of their own sects. A crazed surgeon and apothecary, in the vicinity of London, who had been driven to insanity, and a state of confinement, by his sudden succession to an immense fortune, and, on his recovery, studied to secure it by becoming a Methodist, discovered, in the Book of Revelation, that Buonaparte was to be cut off, but not by human hands, in the year 1804. This discovery he communicated to Mr. Pitt, so early as 1800; representing to him, at the same time, how unnecessary it was to be at the expense of providing any ordinary means for our own safety, and the tyrant's destruction. He still persists in his opinion, that Buonaparte is to be miraculously cut off; though he miscalculated the date of his excision by two years. And he certainly maintains his position with as much plausibility, as professor Pirie did his interpretation of the frogs of the Revelation. On all other subjects, than those of religion and the prophecies, he converses in a very rational manner. Before his accession to wealth and Methodism, he practised physic, in London, with no inconsiderable success.

Towards the evening I returned to my public-house at Abernethey. The family, when I arrived, was singing psalms. When this was over, and some one, the landlord no doubt, began to read a chapter of the Bible, I knocked gently at the door, recol-

lecting how little such intrusion had disturbed my tailor at Cupar. But no one answered, and I stood at the door, with my horse, upon my word, I think the best part of an hour, when the reading being over, and also a long prayer, I was at last admitted. On asking what they had in the house that I could have for supper, I was told that they had nothing but eggs, and some cold salmon. This was very good. After supper, I invited the landlord, according to the general custom in Scotland every where, but in the great and fashionable inns, to drink a bowl of punch with me. He was a plain, unaffected, and sensible man for his station, and, what is not very common in Scotland, answered all my questions, as far as he could, without putting any questions to me about myself, or whence I had come, or whither I was going.

From him I learned that there were no manufactures in Abernethey, besides that of some linen. A few weavers bought up linen yarn in the neighbourhood, and wove it into webs of cloth, which they sold at Perth. There were of course some chandler shops, and such tradesmen as taylors, shoemakers, carpenters, and smiths; but the greater part of the inhabitants made a shift, he said, to live on their means: some farmers, who had retired, in their declining years, with what they had been able to save, to Abernethey, for the sake of being near the kirks; and a number of proprietors of houses, with some acres of land about the village, with a free house and garden, and as much land as, with the privilege of the common, will keep a cow. An Abernethey laird live sin what they call, in Scotland, *dog's ease*, that is,

poor fare, and nothing to do. But their fare is rather coarse than poor. And with milk, eggs, potatoes, porridge, and preaching, all of which they have in abundance, they are well contented. The laird does nothing but bait his cow, delve his garden, weed, get in, and thresh his corn, and take it to the mill. Any little money that is to be seen in the house is got by the industry of the females in spinning.

While the laird tends his cow, holding her by a rope, fastened to her horns, he is always employed, either in knitting stockings, or reading some religious book. Few that have been habituated to the wants, the exertions, and the luxuries of active and artificial life, would chuse to retire from all their labours, cares, and enjoyments, to this tranquil, but insipid state — yet, fewer, perhaps, if they were wise, would exchange this simple condition for the tumultuous and painful pleasures of busy or of polished life.

As there was no one besides the family, either in the morning when I rested and refreshed myself, before I proceeded to Newburgh, or after my return in the evening, but every thing had the appearance of a private, and that very quiet family, I asked my landlord whether he had good custom, and if there was good encouragement for such a house as his in this place. He said, that Abernethey being out of the way of the great road, it was very seldom that any strangers, or travellers, called at his house, and still seldomer that any one, particularly a gentleman, had any thought of passing the night there, as I had done. Such a thing might not probably hap-

pen again in the course of some years. Neither were the neighbours at all in the habit of coming to his house to pass their time in tipling; which, he said, he would not suffer. When they wanted either spirits, or a chapin (a quart) of ale, they sent for it quietly to their houses, and shared it with their wives and families. But the great encouragement to public-house keepers, at Abernethey, was the kirks of the *relief* and the *witnessing remnant*, which, particularly the latter, drew hundreds to the town, from all quarters, on Sundays, and thousands to the sacraments. Though, for his part, the old kirk was good enough for him, and he wished only that he were good enough for the kirk, yet numbers of Seceders, and church of relief men, resorted to his house on Sundays, and multitudes of both on the OCCASIONS. The OCCASIONS, by way of eminence, denote the sacraments. Nor was it only the ale-houses of Abernethey that profited by the sacraments, but those of Aberargie and Newburgh, who, on the OCCASION weeks, brought ale and liquor to the roots, or slope of the Muckle Bin, in barrels, carried thither in sledges, and on carts. It is on this slope that the tents of the preachers are fixed; who hold forth, one minister after another, from ten o'clock in the morning to ten at night. The tents of the ale-house keepers, who seem to be to the congregations here, in some measure, what sutlers are to armies, are placed at a short distance from the margin of that immense space, which is filled with men and women; sometimes squatted on the turfy ground, sometimes for stretching their limbs, standing. But my landlord told me that, he never

had either tent, or gauntrice, (so they call the wooden frame, or stand, on which they place their barrels, when they are to be tapped,) in his life. He sold as much ale as he wished at his own house, where many of the better sort of seceders came for refreshment, instead of bread and cheese from their pockets, and bickers of beer in the field. Bickers are wooden cups veneered. BICHIERA signifies a drinking cup in Italian. Hence, no doubt, the Scotch bicker.

My landlord brewed his own ale, which was formerly the universal custom with publicans all over Scotland; and who were from thence called BREWSTERS, or, as it was commonly pronounced BROWSTERS. He also gave me to understand, that he had wherewithal to live, even independently of a public-house. I wished greatly, on hearing so much about the OCCASION, that my visit to Abernethey had fallen in with the time of the sacrament, or what may rather be called, the holy week, at Abernethey. But, as far as my readers are concerned, they have nothing to regret on this score, as I have been furnished with a description of the holy week with the Seceders, by a man who, having resided for some time, and was in the habit of paying visits occasionally to some friends, at or near Abernethey; to whom also I acknowledge my obligation for a few other memorandums, to which I have given place, among my own remarks, in these travels. His name would not disgrace my work, and I asked his leave to give it. But, on this point, he constantly resisted my solicitations.

" The sacrament week, at Abernethey, which

may be considered as the holy city, the Jerusalem of the Seceders, is one of the greatest curiosities to be seen in all Scotland; being a lively representation and remembrancer of the times of the covenant and field conventicles. The same spirit that assembled the covenanters on Loudoun-hill in the reign of Charles II. draws together the Seceders at this day,* annually to the *Muckle Binn*, at Abernethey, which is held generally in June or July, when the labours of the spring are over, and those of the harvest have not commenced (for there is scarcely anything of what is called in England hay-harvest, in Scotland) and when the days are long, and the nights short.

"When the anniversary of the OCCASION draws near, the sermons for some weeks are animated with more than usual zeal and fervour. The Sunday immediately preceding that of the sacrament Sunday, may be considered as the actual commencement of the religious campaign, which is continued, either in reconnoitring, as it were, and various movements, or in hot action. On that Sunday, the minister states the duty of communicating; but, at the same time, the danger of communicating unworthily, and of "eating and drinking damnation to themselves," in such strong language, that it is a great wonder that any one, believing, as they do, should venture on the consecrated elements. In fact, some modest and ingenuous spirits, as well as those of a melancholy cast,

* This was written in 1776. Perhaps the zeal of the Seceders has, in the lapse of thirty years, been somewhat cooled down. But still this description is, in the main, applicable to the annual conventicle at Abernethey, at this day.

do hang back from the communion, while others of a more sanguineous temperament and greater presumption, boldly advance to the communion table, rejoicing in some motion of the animal spirits, or emotion, which they call the faith of assurance. The Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, are employed by the minister in examining and conversing with intended, particularly young communicants. The elders, in the mean time, make reports concerning their neighbours, and warn the minister to be very cautious how he admits such and such an one to the table, without sifting him to the bottom: in which reports they are supposed frequently to gratify their private resentments, or other malignant passions.

Meanwhile, the news of the approaching OCCASION at Abernethey spreads far and wide. Travellers in every direction, east, west, south, and north, inquire at the inns where they stop into the cause of so many people, men and women, trudging along the roads for the space of ten or twenty miles. Even the ferry-boat between Stratherne and the Carse of Gowrie is unusually busy. The glen of Abernethey, hearing the tread of unusual feet, is astonished at this invasion of his solitary reign.

"By Wednesday night the street, with the little lanes or closes about Abernethey, is in motion. The farm-houses in the neighbourhood too are full of friends and brethren from remote parts of the country. The barns also are full of men and women, young and old. Much in the same manner we may suppose that Jerusalem, with its environs, was crowded at the Passover. The period of nine months

from this date sometimes produces sad memorandums of the barns of Abernethey.

" Thursday is the fast-day preceding the sacrament. Three different ministers preach from ten o'clock to about six or seven in the evening, with an interval of only one hour for refreshment. The minister of Abernethey himself is a silent auditor: but, when all the strangers have done, he mounts the pulpit, and recapitulates to the audience the substance of their sermons, adding exhortations of his own. An equal or greater number of ministers continue the work of preaching in a tent on the MUCKLE BINN for an equal length of time.

" On Friday, there is a cessation of preaching. On Saturday, it is resumed, but not till about one o'clock; it is continued, however, till about eight. On the dismissal of the congregations, I mean that within and that without doors, such of the intended communicants as had not been furnished with tickets, which they call tokens, for the communion table, receive them now from the ministers and elders. On Saturday evening, the voice of some one who has retired for secret prayer is heard behind every hillock and furze bush, and in the thickest parts of the standing corn. A dog here and there stands barking at a noise, which indicates that some stranger is near, though he cannot see him.

"At last, the OCCASION Sunday itself arrives. The church is crowded more than it is easy to imagine. Even the little black gallery, called the *Cutty Stool*, is crammed full: there is no disgrace in sitting in this seat on this occasion. Pregnant women faint. For their recovery, sympathetic females loosen or cut the

laces of their stays, and move them for air to the windows. But the windows are beset with dense columns of people, eager to catch some of the words of the minister, who is serving at the communion table; nor is it without much difficulty that they can be persuaded to fall back for a minute or two, even for saving the life of a sister Seceder.

"In the mean time, the work of preaching, praying, and singing psalms, goes forward at the tent. I have heard, that in the time of old Culfargie, it was sometimes necessary to have two tents, as no human voice could extend to the whole multitude which resorted to the OCCASION at Abernethey in those days; but I never saw more than one.

"The space occupied by the multitude in front, on either wing, and at the back too of the tent, may be, including the booths and beer stands of publicans, about three quarters of a mile. When a very popular preacher holds forth, the hearers sit fast, or seize the moment when they think that they have been wrought into a suitable frame of mind, to repair to the church, and press forward, as soon as they are able, to the communion table. When it is the turn of one *less gifted* to fill the tent, as they call it, they beckon to their acquaintance, and retire in crowds to the booths or beer barrels to take a refreshment. From about two o'clock in the afternoon to about six or seven, when there is an interval of an hour, the people passing to and fro, between the preaching tent, the church, and the booths of the suttlers, forms the whole, when viewed at any distance, into one compacted scene.

"This scene is seen to great advantage on the

north, and opposite banks of the Erne, near the Rynd. The white linen caps and red cloaks, or red or striped plaids of the women of the lower and most numerous classes; the silk cloaks and hats of others; and the blue bonnets, or the hats of the men, make altogether a very striking as well as motley appearance. The singing of psalms by so great a multitude, with Stentorian voices, to the number of twelve thousand, reverberated from the hill, is heard at a great distance, like the hum of bees. Had this scene been viewed by the Danes encamped on the eastern slope of the hill of Moncrieff, they would, beyond all doubt, have mistaken it for the camp of the enemy, engaged in some awful incantations.

" The Monday after the sacrament is a thanksgiving-day. There are two preachers, both in the church and at the tent; but the whole service is over by four o'clock, when all the ministers and elders repair to the minister's house, and enjoy a very plentiful, though, perhaps, I dare not venture to call it, a very hearty dinner: for even now the intensity of the religious tone is not wholly relaxed. Immediately after dinner, which is preceded by a very long grace, there is again singing of psalms, and a very long prayer.

" The pilgrims who had come to this holy city, after visiting, that is, taking a near view of Culfargie, return to their respective counties and parishes. Travellers who meet them on their return, as travellers in an opposite direction had done before, inquire at the first inn they alight at, " What the deuce can be the meaning of so many people here and there all along the road for so many

miles, as silent and downcast as if they were going to the gallows?"—"Oh! it has been the sacrament at Abernethey." Here ends my friend's account of what he saw about thirty years ago. I now proceed to state what I saw, and what happened to myself lately.

Being fond of the diversion of angling, and understanding that the water of Farg, already mentioned, was a stream famous for the sport of trouting, I resolved, instead of proceeding on my route up the course of the Erne in the morning, to indulge myself for some hours in that amusement, and not to leave my present quarters, which, though not so elegant or commodious as what I had found at Kinross, were to the full as much to my satisfaction. Before dinner, my landlord having borrowed a fishing-rod for me, I understood from the schoolmaster, away I set out for the Farg, not more than a mile distant, so early as five o'clock. I fished up the stream from Aberargie for a little way into the Aichil Hills. The quantity of trout I caught in a few hours would scarcely appear credible, were I to mention it. They were only small, but I dare say I caught three or four pounds weight of them in the space of as many hours. I have been informed that the water or river of May, the Burn of Dunning, and other streams descending from the Aichils, are much more abundant in trout than any fish streams that fall from the bleak and barren Grampians. I am inclined, from some little experience of fishing among the Grampians too, to think that this notion is not altogether unfounded. The superior vegetation of the Aichils, I am inclined to suppose,

contributes to the superior prolification of the waters that flow from them.

Quitting the Farg about two miles above Aberargie, I bent my course north-east towards Abernethey, without knowing the proper line of march, but assured that I should soon see it from the summit of a range of hills, to which, over some rising pasture, and marshy grounds, I made my way. Having come to the top of a hill, called, as I afterwards learnt, the Law of Abernethey, where are the vitrified remains of a Danish fortress, and the moat or fossé with which it was defended on that side where the hill was accessible, I rested long on this commanding situation, viewing the dreary glen of Abernethey on the one hand, and a prospect on the other, including all that I had before seen from the Wics of Bagly, and every way far beyond it. Abernethey, Invernethey, and the conflux of the Tay and the two Rynds, were viewed as the gardens in the suburbs of a town from a high steeple.

By the time I had descended from the Law, and returned to my quarters, it was twelve o'clock. After breakfast, or whatever it may be called, I told my landlady, to whom I presented the conquests of my fishing-rod, that if she had no objection, I would take my *kail* with her. This means the same thing in Scotland as *eating a chop with one* does in England. She was a handsome woman, and the very picture of peace, plenty, and good-humour. She said with a smile, that I was heartily welcome to such poor fare as their house could afford. "However," added she, "we will do what we can."

I conjured her not to make the smallest odds on my account; assuring her, which was very true, that it was a matter of the most perfect indifference to me on what I dined. About three o'clock the family dinner was served, not in the parlour, but up stairs, in the best room in the house, which consisted of only one floor besides the ground floor. It consisted in broth, in which a piece of beef, a little salted, or as they called it, powdered, had been boiled, with a copious quantity of greens cut into shreds, carrots, pease, and barley. The juice of so many vegetables qualified the saltness of the beef; and this again gave a very agreeable zest to the soup and vegetables. This was their own family dinner. It is, with some variation, perhaps, in the vegetables, the common and standing dish in every substantial or comfortable house in Scotland that does not aspire to luxuries and the fashion. It is a most savoury, as well as economical dish, and is worthy of being adopted or imitated by all the people of Great Britain and Ireland, and the colonies thereunto belonging. Three or four pounds of meat, with the vegetables and broth, will suffice for a family of ten or twelve people. But nothing is so relishing to an English palate as roasted meat. This is a peculiarity in the English nation. It is not so, I have been told by every one, on any part of the continent; and I know that it is by no means the case in any part of Scotland. But to return to my own dinner. When the *kail and flesh*, Scotch, for the French *Bouillé*, from which (when the French gave the tone to Scotland, as they did for near two centuries) it was in all probability derived, was re-

moved, in comes a large dish of my own trouts, very nicely fried, and at the same time a roasted fowl, with a small mutton ham; which is very tasteful, and which the Scots were wont to prefer to a bacon ham. I would have remonstrated on this work of supererogation on my account, but as I was, of course, to pay for my dinner, I thought that this would be set down to the score of parsimony, wherefore I commended the dinner very much by my words, and not less by my actions. The family, or part of the family, with whom I dined, consisted only of my landlord and landlady, and a young woman whom I took for a relation; their daughter, perhaps, or niece. It was with difficulty that I could persuade the females to give me the pleasure of their company, and they were off, according to the old custom of Scotland, the moment the grace was said after dinner. As for the landlord, he made no scruple to help me out with a bottle of excellent port.

It was now time to call for what I had to pay. The landlord said, that his "gude wife managed those things." Being sent for, she came smiling into the room, and was prevailed on to sit down, and take one glass of wine. Instead of presenting a bill, she said with hesitation, "I am sure I dinna ken weel to say what the skaith (loss or expenditure) has been, I wot weel, it has nae been muckle." I reminded her, that I had both breakfasted and supped the day before, of my bed, my horse, &c. &c. She proposed, rather than charged a small sum for each article; stating, at the same time, the grounds of each. For example, for the whisky-punch after supper—"I canna

charge mair than a shilling, for the mutchkin (an English pint) of my *aqua vitæ*," pronounced akka vytie. "I dinna think you used mair nor an ounce or twa of sugar.—For the hen ye have had, hens are now very dear, nane under eighteenpence at the lowest; but the half of the hen is to the fore, and it winna be lost." Here I interrupted my simple hostess—"My dear, and very good lady, I pray do not reckon up the value of the remains. I have been, with wandering about, as hungry as a hawk, and have ate like a highland drover." —"Waes me, Sir, you have ate nothing." The result was, as I stated in the account, which I took down with my pencil from the mouth of my landlady:

	£.	s.	d.
Breakfast or luncheon, or both. Tea, eggs, ham, &c.	0	0	8
Supper, including whisky-punch . . .	0	1	8
Breakfast again, in the style of the former	0	0	8
Dinner	0	1	0
A bottle of wine, and a bottle of English porter	0	3	6
Corn and hay for my horse	0	2	0
	0	9	6

I reminded mine hostess that I had had a dram of ferintosh after the trouts. "Oh," said she, "that was out of our bottle." I put her in mind that I had had a bed, and that a very good one. "Oh," said she, and in the same breath, "the landlord,

we have never, thank God, charged any thing for a bed, and I hope never will need to do sick an unchristian-like thing." But the wine—only three shillings! Here they both expatiated on the excessive price to which this article had in a few years risen. "Indeed they could not afford a bottle of it even for three shillings, if, in the first place, the bottle had contained a full quart; and, in the second, if they had not had a much larger store of wine than they had any occasion for, from some connections they had many years ago with some captains of vessels carrying salmon from the Tay to the Mediterranean. The wine, they said, smiling, had come to them very reasonably, meaning, I suppose, that it had been smuggled." On reflecting on this primitive simplicity and moderation in making up a bill, I was led to speculate concerning the cause of it. Perhaps they made some abatement, from their respect, which was visible, to the character of a clergyman. But the true and general cause I take to be this: they are so little accustomed to lodge travellers, that they never make any account of such chance visitors. Had they been accustomed to lodge and entertain travellers every day, they would probably have learnt the art of making the most of them.

Bidding adieu to the capital of the Picts and Seceders, I went up the course of the Erne, passing through the middle of the valley, which merits all that has been said of it, both for fertility and beauty. A range of low hills, or rather a hilly tract, covered for the most part with corn to the top, tapers off from the Hill of Moncrieff, in a south-westerly direction, by Hilton, Kirktoun, Mailor, Aberdalgie, Duplin,

and the Braes or acclivities of Carnie, to a gentle eminence, projecting a little into the valley, called the WOODHEAD of the KIERS; a cluster of farming hamlets; which eminence, on a general and comprehensive view, may be considered as the extreme termination of the Sidley Hills, stretching in a south-westward direction, as above observed, to the Hill of Kinnoull; which is separated, and as it were divorced, from the Hill of Moncrieff, only by the mighty stream of the Tay. There is something in all those, and other places situated on the southern aspect of this tract of hilly or rising ground, uncommonly soft and pleasing. The Erne, meandring more than any river in Scotland, except the Forth, runs at the distance of a quarter or half a mile; where it does not by a salient angle, dash, as near Duplin, into the very roots and almost side of the heights and acclivities that bound its course. The sea, or an Estuary, navigable by the largest ships, give greater grandeur to a rural scene, but less softness. The summits of the Aichils, in the lower parts covered with grain, in the upper with sheep, give also a soft, though a more impressive boundary to Stratherne on the south.

From the promontory just mentioned, the Woodhead of the Kiers, you have a view on the north-west the whole extent of Stratherne, from the Loch, in the middle of the most southerly range of the Grampians, at the foot of the Mountain of Benvoirlich; and on the east of the whole valley, and the Estuary of the Tay, for several miles below Newburgh. From this point we survey, in what is called the Upper Stratherne, the course of the river from its source; at first only marked, as it were, in the air, by an opening in

the Grampian Mountains. By and by the river itself is seen gliding along from Crieff, where it is augmented by the water of Turret. Stratherne now intersects Strathmore, or rather forms a part of the GREAT VALLEY. The Upper Stratherne is dotted, particularly near Crieff, with a greater number of gentlemen's seats than might be expected from either the extent of the country, though great, or its fertility, though not inconsiderable. A great part, and sometimes the greater part of the estates appertaining to these, is situated in the mountainous country to the north west, and, in a few instances, in the Aichils, on the south.

On the south and west of the Erne, two miles south of Crieff, on the great military road, is seen Drummond Castle, the seat of the earls of Perth, among whom was the chancellor Perth, who figures greatly in Scotland in the reign of king James II. It is situated on the precipice of a rock, fronting, as is usual with those appearances of nature, the south-west, rising in a beautiful bay of land, covered with a fine natural wood, and a number of fine stately trees planted. Castle Drummond commands Strathmore, as far as the eye can reach, which is as far, they say, as FORFAR, in Angus, and down Stratherne, and the Frith of Tay, as far as Dundee. Three miles down the river is Machany, situated in a beautiful and extensive plain, the seat of the Drummonds, viscounts of Strathallan. The title is extinct, but the estate is still in the possession of the Drummonds. There is a very extensive natural wood at Machany, and some old trees, particularly one or two of immense size. Fronting Drummond

Castle, in a concavity of the serpentinizing Erne, stands the Castle of Inner Paffray, the antient seat of the Lords of Maderty. It has a pleasing and a venerable aspect—an old castle—old trees—and old chapel. It would be tedious to notice all the beautiful residences in this romantic region, but I cannot pass over Auchtertire, the seat of Sir Patrick Murray, situated on a shelf of BEN Y CHOIN, in the midst of a fine natural wood, looking down on the Loch of Monivard, covering thirty acres of ground, and aslant the valley of the Erne, into the pass of Glen Eagles, which opens a very easy communication with Clackmannan. As to the Lower Sratherne, it is so beautifully inclosed between verdant hills, so delightfully watered by the Erne, and the brooks and rivulets that fall into it on either hand, so neatly divided into well fenced and well cultivated fields, and so thickly interspersed with gentlemen's seats, that it seems to be one garden or piece of pleasure-ground. If we take in the scenery of the Hill of Moncrieff, with the cliff of Kinnoull, and the conflux of the Erne and Tay, expanding, after their junction, into a spacious Estuary, it would be difficult for the magnificent taste of even an emperor of China, to form a garden on a nobler scale.

From Drummond Castle, or rather the village of Muthil, near it, where I rested for some hours, or wandered about in its vicinity, I went in the evening to Crieff. This is a very populous and thriving village, containing upwards of two thousand souls. It is situated on the southern slope of a hill, isolated from the Grampians by a narrow dell or glen, called the KNOCK of Crieff. Being at an equal distance between Perth and Stirling, and lying on the military

road which diverges here in branches, leading to Loch Erne, through Glenalmon, to the Bridge of Aberfeldie, and to Perth. It is a place of great resort, and to this circumstance chiefly it owes its prosperity.

CRIEFF.

Travellers, bodies of troops, in their march from one station to another, and great numbers of Highlanders, bringing what things they can spare in exchange for the articles they want, render Crieff a very stirring place. The manufacture of linen too flourishes here. There are also corn mills, three paper mills, a cotton, and three oil mills, belonging to this place. It enjoys a variegated prospect of mountains, hills, and woods, contrasted with the extensive plains of Stratherne. The soil is light, dry, and sandy, and intersected for many miles around by running waters. It is accounted the Montpelier of Scotland; and, with other places in the vicinity, resorted to in the summer by people from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other towns, on account of the purity of the air, goat-whey, and the beauty and grandeur of the natural scenery. On looking westward into the Grampians, around Loch Erne, and where the river issues through a narrow Glen into the plain of Comrie, famous for one or two of Agricola's camps, the face of nature various, rugged, abrupt, and sublime, one is constrained to philosophise, however unskilfully, on the formation of at least the surface of this globe.

All the old people in Crieff, and within a few

miles of it, to the north and to the west, every one, both old and young, speaks both the Gaelic and the English language. This is the part where the Highland and the Erse language penetrate farthest into the Lowlands. As there is a post-office here, and that this is more central, perhaps, than any other place of equal size and accommodation to Scotland, and opening an easy communication every way, with both the Highlands and Lowlands; it is a charming spot to spend the summer in, to any one who can be introduced to the numerous gentry in the neighbourhood, who are, I have been informed by those who know them, on the whole, hospitable and polite in their manners, even beyond what is common in Scotland. But, at the same time, the sojourner at Crieff should not be a poor man. Crieff is the capital of the upper, as Abernethey is of the lower Stratherne. There are two excellent inns at Crieff. But every thing almost is twice, nay sometimes more than twice, as dear at the former capital as at the latter.

As the upper Stratherne, particularly that part of it which extends from the lake to Crieff, is resorted to in the summer by invalids for the salubrity of the air, and goat whey; so, also, in the Lower Stratherne, there is, in the same season, a concourse of people at PITKETHLEY WELLS, the waters of which are used commonly, and frequently with eminent success, in scorbutic and other cases. There are five distinct springs, all of the same quality, but of different degrees of strength. The water, is said, and I believe truly, to be, "gentle in its operation, to relieve the stomach of crudities, cool the blood, procure an appe-

tite, exhilarate the spirits, and instead of weakening the constitution to strengthen it." Some springs, very similar in their nature and effect, it seems, have been lately discovered at Hampstead, by Mr. Goodwin, a surgeon at that place: which, even if they should not possess all the virtues of Pitkethley Wells, must be of great service to many in its neighbourhood, if they should only, by a gentle and safe operation, relieve the stomach from crudities, and cool the blood.

Being informed, by accident, at the inn in Crieff, that a family from the banks of the Forth, with which I had the happiness to be intimately acquainted, was at this time at Pitkethley Wells, I determined, instead of pursuing my route directly to Perth, to return to that watering place, which is situated in the middle of the Lower Stratherne. I had discharged my bill in the evening, as I was to take my departure early next morning; but the landlord, as I passed his parlour, was ready, at the early hour of six o'clock, with cakes, and bottles of rum, brandy, and whiskey, to give me, according to the good old custom, he said, *deuchan dorish*, or a drink at the door. I shuddered at the very idea of drinking ardent spirits on a hot summer morning; nor did I express any cordial thanks to my host; being more out of humour with his bill—perhaps because I had been spoilt at Abernethey—than gratified by his offer of deuchan dorish.

Departing from Crieff, I went by Inver Paffray, and another seat called the Mill of Erne, a very beautiful residence on the banks of the river, with fine orchards, and other plantations, and in front de-

lightful meadows, to the bridge of Kinkell. Passing from thence to Dunning, at Abriven, where there was an abbey, the Abbey of Ruthven. You see on your left a fine mausoleum, the burying place of the ducal family of Montrose. The principal part of the estate, as well as the residence of this family, was formerly in this part of the country. About two miles to the south and west of this mausoleum, at Abryven, on the brow of a narrow and deep glen, formed by the water of Ruthven, and the roots of the Aichils; and in the midst of an extensive natural wood, stands the old Castle of Kincardine, the residence of the great marquis of Montrose.

The Upper Stratherne, in former times, and these indeed not very remote, was in the possession, or under the domination chiefly of three great families, the heads of which were raised, through successive honours, to the rank of dukes; namely, the Grahams, the Murrays, and the Drummonds. Kincardine was the chief seat of the Grahams, the castle already noticed of the Drummonds, and that of Tullibardin, scowling in the midst of a vast and congenial moor, and half way between Drummond Castle and Kincardine, of the Murrays. A little laird, or feuer, held his estate by a very precarious tenure indeed, if he was not a vassal, or professed partizan of one or other of those chiefs.

At Crieff, the lairds, or proprietors of which hold of the estate of Perth, I had a great deal of conversation about that estate and family. The knoll planted with firs, on my left hand, in coming up from the bridge to the village of Crieff, was the Gallow Lee, where criminals, and others obnoxious

to the Drummonds, by their sentence, were hanged. The estate of Perth was of immense extent; comprehending the greater part of the country, watered by the Erne, from the head of Loch Erne and Balquhidder to Auchterarder, near Kincardine, and the water of Ruthven: beside estates in Monteith, and that of Stobhall, on the east side of the Tay. As the Grahams and the Murrays commanded the property of the county, by the terror of their arms, so Drummond, the chancellor, set himself to consolidate the whole tract just mentioned into one domain, by the plagues, the expense, and terrors of law and government. Sometimes he pretended to discover dormant rights to estates; sometimes he purchased them at his own price; and sometimes, when both menaces and wheedling failed, he had recourse, as I have been repeatedly and well assured, by different persons, who have heard it from their grand-father's and grand-mother's, to the following stratagem. He kept open house at Castle Drummond, where he was at great pains to draw, and entertain all the gentry or proprietors of land for many miles around. It was a kind of court; and the visitors were proud of his countenance, and happy in his smiles. By way of great kindness and condescension, he would invite himself, and his train, to the houses of those on whose estates he had an eye, and, by repeated visits, involve them in such expense, as reduced them to the necessity of selling their estates: and he would have been a bold man that should have dared to purchase any estate from Balquhidder to Auchterarder, for which the chancellor was a bidder.

Here I will mention an heroic, as well as prudent action of Mrs. Drummond, called lady Glentarf, who

resided with her husband upon a small estate, even now little better than 100*l.* a year, situated about two miles from Castle Drummond, in the parish of Strowan. The earl sent word to Glentarf, that he would come on such a day to pay him a visit. Mrs. Drummond, who fortunately governed her husband, returned a polite answer. On the day appointed, the chancellor, with a great retinue of dependents, sycophants, and servants, makes his appearance, in time for dinner. He received a hospitable welcome; but not good cheer. Only kail, or broth, in which some mutton hams had been boiled, with a few fowls. The soup, with the hams and fowls, barley cakes, butter and cheese, and whiskey, was all the dinner. No wheaten bread, no roast meat, no wine, no foreign liquors—nothing more than just such a dinner as one little laird could afford, and was in the habit of giving to another. By such prudent economy the estate of Glentarf is, at this day, in the possession of a lineal descendant of the old laird and lady, who flourished in the days of the chancellor Drummond.

The morning prayer of Mr. Maxtown, the old laird of Cultywhey, a small estate on the Perth road, about three miles from Crieff, is still in every mouth, and mentioned as being singularly characteristic of the three predominating families in the Upper Stratherne, already mentioned. Every morning, when he rose, he went to a spout of water, near his house, to wash his hands and his face. Having done this, and glanced an eye on Drummond Castle, Tullibardin, &c he took off his hat, or bonnet, and thus prayed aloud; "From the pride of the Grahams, the wind (vain arrogance) of the Murrays, and the ire of the Drummonds, gude Lord defend me and mine."

The estates of Kincardine and Abryven, and all that the family of Montrose possessed in Stratherne, have been sold to new proprietors: which, by the old tenantry, and others, is considered not only as an unnatural act, but as little less than impious.

DUNNING is a small village, at the entrance into a pass, through the Aichils, and gives name to a parish. It holds of lord Rollo, who is the principal heritor in the parish, and whose seat, Duncrub, is situated at the distance of one mile from the church, which is an old building, with a tower. The road between Dunning and Duncrub is shaded on each side by a fine row of trees. Lord Rollo has very wisely allotted a new portion of his land, near Dunning, for the encouragement of settlers, by granting perpetual leases, or feus. This has drawn a number of manufacturers from Perth, and other parts, who have built houses, on a regular plan, which promise to be the commencement of a flourishing village. It will have the advantage of a copious and constant stream of water, the Burn of Dunning, excellently adapted, by its descent, through the roots of the Aichils, for machinery, as well as the purpose of bleaching. Nor is Dunning above six miles from coals.

Leaving Dunning, and passing by the charming seat, and celebrated Birks of Invermay, and the pleasant residences of Mr. Oliphant, of Condie, Mr. Oliphant, of Rossie, and the laird of Dunbarnie's, I have forgot his name, finely situated on a gentle eminence in the midst of the valley, the land all the way highly cultivated, and adorned frequently with stripes and clumps of trees, I arrived at Pitkethley Wells. Here I found my friends from the south in

apparently good health, though in so suspicious a place, and certainly in good spirits; and I was in time for dining with them, when I exchanged some anecdotes that had occurred in my peregrinations, for the news of Cackmannanshire.

At Pitkethley I found not many invalids, but a great number that had come there merely for the sake of beautiful scenery, and pleasing rides in the neighbourhood, and what seemed not the last object, festivity. Among the invalids, I found an honest lady from the banks of the Forth, known in her own neighbourhood by the name of BRANDY NAN, being full twenty stone weight. She paid this place an annual visit. From the purgative quality of the waters, she returned to the south lighter, and consequently better. Though I have drunk copiously of the waters of Bath, Cheltenham, &c. without feeling any effect from them, yet, I confess, the water of Pitkethley made me drink with caution. There is only one inn at Pitkethley Wells. Most of the visitors take up their quarters at neighbouring villages. It is well known that things are commonly done *sub dio*, in Scotland, for which greater conveniency, as well as privacy, is required in some other countries. The morning after my arrival, having drunk a pint of the waters, I strolled about before breakfast, reflecting on the indelicacy of both men and women, almost every where, in sight of one another, running constantly behind bushes and hedges: but it was not long before I completely sympathized with them.

As I staid here for several days, I tried what effect the water would have on my horse; and from what I observed, perceived that it had the same effect on

quadrupeds as on bipeds. I fell in here with a handsome and sensible young woman from Aberdeenshire, whose maiden name was Mitchel. She was very happily married to a medical gentleman in this neighbourhood. Her father, who was a man of some property, was very religious, and had prayers in his family regularly every evening and morning. Having four daughters, he firmly resolved, that as every person not only ought to pray, but not to be ashamed to pray, and as no one could be the worthy master of a family without offering up the prayers of the family, so none should gain his consent to marry his daughters till he heard them pray, and approved of their talents in this exercise. His daughters being all of them handsome, and tolerably well educated, had many of the young men as suitors: but as none of them would say prayers before him, he dismissed them all.

After the young women, especially the eldest, had been long teazed with this conduct of her father's, and had used many arguments on her part to shew that a young man might be a good man, and make a good-enough husband, though he could not say long prayers in the family, at length a genteel, well-bred young man fell in love with her, and came frequently to the house to see her. Her father suspected the young man's intentions, but said nothing. At length, the young man, having got the young woman's consent, one evening after tea, while walking in the garden, told the father his intention, who seemed not to disapprove of it. When they went in, it being summer, and near the hour of supper, the young woman's father, as usual, ordered the Bible and psalm books to be brought. This being

done, he asked the young man to read and sing a portion of the Psalms, which the young man declined doing, on the ground that he could not sing. Having read a chapter from the Bible, he then desired the young man to say prayers, which he also declined, upon the ground that he was not much in the practice of saying prayers in public. Prayers being over, they went out to walk while the cloth was laying for supper. "Hark ye, young man," said the father, "I have no objections to your age, your appearance, nor your fortune, but I desire you never to enter my house as a suitor for my daughter's affections, till you have not only learned to pray to your God, but also not to be ashamed to do it in public." The young man took this address of the father so much amiss, that he went and said to the young woman, Farewell, and never entered the house again.

The young woman, who was angry, and remonstrated with her father on his having so often disappointed her, had this reply: "Trust in God, he will send you a husband that can pray." Nobody asked her in marriage for some time, and she was, as they vulgarly say, at her last prayers. However, a physician recommended it to her youngest sister, for some complaint, to go to Pitkethley Wells, and her eldest sister went to accompany her. During the six weeks they staid at Pitkethley, where there are often public dances and meetings of various kinds, a young gentleman of property and amiable manners saw her, fell in love with her, and carried her home in his carriage with her sister, near a hundred miles, to her father's, to obtain his consent. This young lover did not need to be asked to

pray, but proposed to perform this duty; which, having done to the father's satisfaction, he consented to the marriage, and they have children and are happy, as already mentioned.

I was sorry to find, not only here but almost every where, numbers of old bachelors and men, who, though they are evidently in easy circumstances and able to support a family, yet do not choose to do it. There must be something wrong in the laws of the country, or the morals of the age, that men so reluctantly enter the pale of matrimony. Athenus, an antient historian, tells us, that, in Greece, women took old bachelors, and dragged them yearly round the altars, beating them with their fists, that this, if no other motive, might induce them to marry; and this, he tells us, had often the desired effect. What would the old bachelors say, were they tossed in a blanket every year by the women in the parish till they were persuaded to marry?

Leaving Pitkethley, I went by the bridge of Erne, below which I observed some vessels laden with lime, and others with coals, to Perth. After crossing the Erne, the road runs to the north-west under the base of the hill of Moncrieff, and passes by a pretty steep ascent to the cloven crags where art has assisted nature in carrying this great military highway through the ridge that tapers off from the hill of Moncrieff. Arrived at this height, where the road declines on the one hand to the south, and on the other to the north, I turned about, and surveyed once more the delightful valley of Strathern; of which I shall only say, in addition to all

I have ready observed, that it was antiently a principality or county palatine, and the inheritance of the royal family that succeeded to the Bruces in Scotland. It still gives a title to one of our princes of the blood royal. When Edward III. ruled over, at intervals, the low country of Scotland, his head-quarters being at Perth, we find among his barons "John lord Warren, eldest son to John Plantagenet, late earl of Warren, Stratherne, and Surrey." Recollecting that this was the place for ascending the hill of Moncrieff, or, as it is called in Chartularies and other old writings, Moredun, I rode back a little way to a little village, called, I think, Road End, where there is a Seceder kirk, and what we would call in England a hedge ale-house, where I put up my horse, and proceeded from thence towards the summit of the hill, by a very gradual ascent, through thriving plantations of wood, and at every step having a clearer and clear prospect of the objects at hand, as it were, or below me. The town and the bridge of Perth, stretched boldly across the *indignant* Tay, * though a noble as well as pleasing prospect, ceased for a time to attract my regard, when I had a clear, and, indeed, very near prospect of the majestic cliff of Kinnoull, rising perpendicularly six hundred and fifty feet from the road that runs close by its base and the Tay. This hill has an inexhaustible store of fine pebbles, a kind of agates, or, perhaps, cornelians. But in surveying this sublime crag, one does not think of such trifling ornaments, but is lost in

* Tao indignanti, &c. inscribed on the bridge of Aberfeldie.

The Grand Cliff of Kinnoull, viewed across the Tay from the South West

Perth.

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wondering how it was formed. Dunsinnan Hill, too, fortified and inhabited by Macbeth, and presenting his boldest front, like Kinnoull and Moredun * to the south-west, attracts, as you approach the summit of the latter, particular attention. I had a strong inclination to visit this place: but I could not always, without very great inconvenience, give way to my curiosity. It is situated near the south side of the great plain that intersects Scotland, about seven miles north-east from Perth. The elevation above the level of the sea is one thousand two hundred feet. On one part of the hill, almost inaccessible except on one side, you still see, I was informed, the ruins of Macbeth's castle.

The view from the hill of Moncrieff has been often described. The style in which this has been done seems to rise into that of poetry. I shall only say in general, that it is faithfully correct and chaste. You see almost the whole extent of Strathmore from the hills of Menteith, near Loch Lomond, to the courses of the rivers Eske, that fall near Montrose into the German Ocean, with its stupendous boundary on the north, the

* *More Dunn*, its first or original name, signifies the great hill, the same as Dunmore. The lofty hills that rise uppermost on a ridge of mountains are called *Ben; Dun* denotes an isolated hill: a hill rising from a plain. This will abundantly appear, if we only recollect Dunbar, Dunbarton, Dundee, Dungannon in Ireland, Dumfermeline, &c. Benvoir, or Benmore, Benvoirlich, Ben Nevis, &c. &c. are the highest hills, the hills that tower above the rest in the range to which they belong, like the cupolas of magnificent edifices.

remonstrated with him upon the destruction which king Edward and the English had made in Scotland. King David told them, he would have ample revenge, or lose his kingdom and life into the bargain. By the advice of his council, he sent messages to all his friends, far and near, to beg and entreat that they would aid and assist him in this enterprize.

The earl of Orkney was the first who obeyed the summons. He was a great and powerful baron, and had married king David's sister. There came with him many men at arms. Many other barons and knights came from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark: some out of affection and friendship, and others for pay. There were such numbers from all parts, that when they were arrived at Perth and its neighbourhood on the day which king David had appointed, they amounted to sixty thousand men on foot, and three thousand men more mounted on galloways, with arms, knights, and squires. In short, all the nobility and gentry of Scotland." *

I suppose this was the grandest and busiest day that Perth ever saw. I have been informed by a person, who, having been educated at Perth school, and resided long very near it, that the Perthians were, about forty years ago, distinguished by a high degree of conceit and arrogance, claiming great con-

* Froissard's Chronicle, ch. lxxiii. It is amusing to observe the manner in which Froissard distinguishes the highland from the lowland Scots. "Raynald, Lord of the Isles, who governed the wild Scots, and whom alone they obeyed, was sent to and entreated to attend the parliament. He complied with the request, and brought three thousand of the wildest of his countrymen with him." Froissard's Chronicle, ch. cxxxv.

sideration as the citizens of what was so long, and ought still to be, the first city in Scotland. They inherited, by tradition, somewhat of that self-confidence and presumption, which are wont to belong to the natives of places that are the seat of government. And to this, perhaps, he thinks we are indebted for the boldness with which they took the lead in the reformation. Whatever may be thought of this refinement, we certainly recognize in Perth, and the vicinal parishes, very much of the *fervidum genus scotorum*, from the time when they smashed the images in the churches, and the women reviled, beat, and put to flight the priests, to the present.

From the time of the reformation, for a period of more than one hundred years, a Druidical gloom hung over Perth, and the whole district, in a line from thence to Stirling, and about sixteen miles wide, like a dense cloud. This region, comprehending Stratherne, part of Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, attracted the notice and admiration of all Scotland, and was the grand nursery from which ministers, truly Calvinistic, were sent to Edinburgh, and other great and corrupt towns, who had much need to supply, by the orthodoxy of their faith, their deficiency in good works. But still PERTH, at a distance, was considered as the grand garrison, and depôt of the rigid and true doctrine.

During this period there was a very singular union, at Perth, of wealth and hoggishness; and of the most illiberal bigotry, with a literary, though not a very learned education. There was not any other place in all Scotland, where there was so much money, and at the same time so much sordid selfish-

ness, and inhospitality. Their riches being acquired not by commerce on a great scale, but by retail trade, their minds were cramped, and their hearts closed by the calculation of pence, and even babees. When, from prudential considerations, they burst through their inhospitable habits, they would sometimes give a *miser's feast;* where there was vast abundance, but neither elegance, propriety, or scarcely decency. About forty years ago, one of the magistrates invited a nobleman in the neighbourhood to dine with him. The dinner was not served in the parlour, or common sitting room, but in a bed room, in order to display a fine new chintz bed. Instead of loaf bread, the baillie, was thinking of having a basket with some fine rich cake, which they call short bread, for his lordship: but the late Dr. Robert Wood, a very gentlemanlike and elegant man, as well as an excellent physician, whom the entertainer had the sense also to invite, whispered in his ear, when he perceived what was intended, "For god's sake, Tam! get some loaf bread, don't make yourself ridiculous."

As to the lower classes, I mean the poorer, when they went to one another's houses, the guest, in return for the victuals, was at the expense of the drink—ale or whisky, for which they sent to the public-house. A genteeler and more hospitable turn now prevails among not a few of the opulent citizens of Perth; and will no doubt make its way, in some degree, among the whole. But, as yet, Perth cannot be called a polite or a hospitable place.

The strange union of what is in England called a classical education, with religious bigotry and severity, which, as I am well informed, did characterize

the Perthians, is accounted for by my friend, above alluded to, by grounds or circumstances that seem, if not completely satisfactory, certainly very plausible. But first, my readers must be assured of the fact. My friend, on whose veracity and word, I will be bold to say, none ever doubted that knew him, affirms, that the landlord with whom he was boarded when at Perth school, who was a baker, assisted him very much in learning his tasks, in Livy, Horace, and other Latin writers. When some of this worthy man's acquaintance of his own station would call on him occasionally, they too would have a touch at their old acquaintance, and puzzle my friend, then a boy from twelve to fifteen, with some hard passage, which they themselves had learnt to explain with ease. Baillie Fyffe, a candle-maker and tobacconist, at the public examinations of Perth school, held twice in the year, before the magistrates of Perth, and the presbytery, was as strict and accurate an examinator as any of the ministers. There was none of the magistrates who could not, by calling for such and such a passage, make at least a shew of examining the youth. A smattering, and often more than a smattering of Latin, was learnt at Perth, and in the vicinal parishes, by many of the sons of the tradesmen and farmers; and that, in most cases, even without any view to the learned professions. The minds of the people, in general, were impressed with an idea, that to learn Latin was a good thing, as it certainly was, for making a clever man, and improving his fortune. It tended at least to open their minds to adventure and ambition. Now, all this prepossession in favour of Latin was prevalent more or less

throughout Scotland. But at Perth, and in the vicinity, it was prevalent in a remarkable degree. The causes may be these:

First, It is in the very nature and spirit of the REFORMATION, to appeal from the canons and councils of the church, to the letter of the scriptures. The turn or propensity to study the dead languages was therefore strongest where the spirit of the reformation was the strongest.

Secondly, At Perth, probably from the æra of the reformation, and certainly for the last century, and, I have not a doubt, for what has run of the present, the office of rector of the public school has been filled with men of distinguished accomplishments, diligence, and success in teaching. Mr. William Rynd, rector of the school in 1590, was in such estimation, as to be appointed governor, and go abroad with the young earl of Gourie, and his brother Alexander Ruthven. The two Martins, father and son, who were rectors of Perth school for near fifty years of the last century, were called the BUSBEYS of Scotland. Mr. Cornfute, who had been first usher under the younger Martin, and was appointed rector in 1752, was not inferior to either of the Martins in all the requisites for that office. In all the qualities of an accomplished gentleman their superior. He would have been as proper for the office of governor to a young nobleman or prince in his day, as Mr. Rynd was towards the close of the sixteenth century. The diligence, zeal, and success of such men excited in Perth, and the vicinity, an enthusiasm in literature. At Perth school, as at the best schools in England, the boys were taught both Latin and Greek.

But in the midst of all this learning, the Perthians, in general, illiberal, conceited, penurious, and inhospitable, exhibited the singular character of religious and lettered barbarians, without many of the virtues of barbarians, or even savages.

The light of science gradually advanced; bigotry was somewhat softened; with the true grain of philosophy, there grew up tares; John Knox was supplanted by Tom Paine; and a very great number of the inhabitants of Perth, faithful to the character of fervour to excess, ran from one extreme to another. Sedentary and melancholy weavers burnt their Bibles, and instead of subscribing to new editions of *Boston's Fourfold State*, and *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, took in the volumes or parts of their own *Encyclopædia Perthensis*. They cracked jokes, sang songs, drank whisky, danced *promisky*, and sauntered about the Inches on Sundays, even in the time of divine service. But though the Perthians in 1792, 93, and 94, were seized with a violent fit of democracy and irreligion, they have now recovered from that paroxysm. And the present state of Perth, with respect to religion, is as follows: There is not now to be seen on any countenance, that Druidical gloom which darkened Perth, and its vicinity, about thirty or forty years ago. It is true that many religious sectaries still exist in Perth: but all difference in religious opinions is moderated by a spirit of forbearance. They are, in fact, verging, like their neighbours, throughout christendom, not to the millennium, but to the age of indifference.

It is certainly not a little characteristic of the pre-

sent times, and particularly of Scotland, that they are publishing at Perth, an Encyclopædia, calculated for a circulation, not only among opulent people, but people of moderate and small fortunes. This Encyclopædia, though it bear in its external form, I mean the paper and engravings, somewhat of the squalor of John Knox's Perth, has not been inattentive to any of the most recent discoveries, in any of the branches of knowledge. There is one department, a dictionary of the English language, Johnson's, properly dispersed in it, I believe, entirely new in works of this kind. It is certainly the most copious, as well as the cheapest I have yet seen. The mathematical part both pure and mixed, experimental philosophy, as well as geometry, and astronomy, was conducted (for the work has now, I suppose, come to a close) by Mr. Gibson, rector of the academy at Perth, who is undoubtedly admirably well qualified for such a task. I would have mentioned this gentleman's name before, among those of some other pupils of the professors Gregory and Wilkie, at St. Andrews, but that I had in my eye the present occasion of introducing it. He was one of the best scholars in every class; though most distinguished among his cotemporaries by his genius and application to the study of mathematics. He was much noticed by professor Wilkie, who was wont to call his assistance in preparing, on the day before, the experiments to be exhibited in his school. Hitherto the magistrates of Perth, in the election of rectors of the academy, have been as fortunate in their choice, as in the election of the Martins and Cornfutes, &c. to the rectorship of the school. These are important offices, and

a proper choice of men to fill them is no doubt a public benefit to the town. It is quite proper to humour the people in the choice of their ministers.

I am very glad to find, amidst all the fluctuations of Perth, on the subject of religion and government, the respect due to literature and science undiminished, and even on the increase. Much has been done of late for the literary improvement of youth at the grammar-school and the academy, and to make these together nearly equal to a college. Among others, a building is nearly completed, at the expense of seven or eight thousand pounds for class rooms for the different departments in the seminaries.

This town is thriving in trade and manufactures; and, from the circumstance, arising from its situation, of having no rival town for twenty miles or more distant, has many advantages in the retail trade, by which many of the people live in opulence. The town of Perth is extending to the north, south, and west. In this last direction it has begun to stretch even beyond the Royalty. Its present population is twenty thousand souls. Its exports are, linen cloth of all kinds, cotton stuffs, salmon, grain, shoes, and, perhaps, some other articles of less value. It imports all that the country wants, but does not produce. The chief trade of Perth is with London and the Baltic. The salmon fishery of the Tay connects it in some measure too with the Mediterranean.

Almost the whole of the fisheries of this noble river, with those too of the Erne near its junction with the Tay, have been for many years monopolized by one man, who has made a vast for-

tune by them; so that the people are tantalized with the sight of long rows of salmon glittering in the spring and summer mornings on its grassy banks, which they must never taste. This, they will tell you, is a natural consequence of fair competition in trade: but an impression is still left on the mind, that it is against nature, and even a warfare against the bounty of Providence. I was told at Crieff, that they never thought of sending for salmon to Perth, as it was scarcely possible to get it there for either love or money. That the only way in which they could come at salmon, besides what little was occasionally to be had from the Erne, as a favour from the lairds who kept the little fisheries in their own hands for the use of their families, was from Loch Tay, across a range of the Grampians, where it is to be had all the year round in great perfection, or from the Forth at and above Stirling, where there is not any monopoly of salmon as at Perth, nor any trade in that article to London.

I was led into a great deal of conversation about the salmon, and the great fishmonger of the Tay, by the astonishing charge for salmon at my inn at Perth: it was positively almost as high as it would have been at a coffee-house or tavern in London. The anecdote I am going to relate shews that the great fishmonger, Mr. Richardson, a man of a fair and unsullied character, I understand, is not only a judicious and fortunate speculator in business, but a man of invention in other respects. He has purchased a fine estate, I understand the whole parish of St. Madoes, in the west end of the Carse of Gowrie, where he has built a noble man-

sion. Wishing, as much as possible, to obliterate the recent origin of his wealth and greatness, he has constructed it in the form of a gothic castle. And not only this, but he is at pains, when he goes to London about his fish, to pick up as much old fashioned silver plate as he can, which he gets cheap, and which suits his views of concealing the novelty of his taste infinitely better than the most fashionable articles of London or Paris.

Many fortunes have also been acquired rapidly, of late, in the vicinity of Perth, by judicious modes of agriculture. This art, the grand basis of manufactures and commerce, has, in this part of the country, and all the lowlands of Perthshire, undergone a complete change for the better. More estates have been bought lately in the district round Perth by farmers than by any other class of men. Many estates particularly have been purchased by the Carse farmers and the earl of Kinnoull's tenants.

While I was at Perth, it was impossible not to take a walk up the Tay to Scone. The vestiges of the pavement, and bridges over every rivulet and rill on the road thither, have an air of antiquity that accords well with the expectation of seeing the antient palace of the kings of Scotland. I shall not describe Scone, nor yet Perth, with its environs, both so often and well described by other travellers; only I must observe, what I have not seen in the journals of any of my predecessors, that the prospect from Scone of the Grampian mountains to the north and west, and of the openings into that chain of mountains by Dunkeld, Glen Almon, and the highest part of Strathern, is truly majestic and

sublime. The home prospect from Scone is rich, pleasant, and picturesque. The distant view grand and and awful. But, if the descriptions of travellers be inadequate to curiosity, and the inquisitive traveller wishes for more particular information respecting the city and neighbourhood of Perth: occurrences at Perth from 1160 downwards; who, since the æra of the reformation, were provosts, baillies, treasurers, and deacons, and also ministers, schoolmasters, &c. &c. Lo! are they not all written in the book of the *Chronicles of Cant, or Memorabilia of Perth?*

I cannot help observing, however much it may appear at first sight to be below the dignity of history, that it would have been a most acceptable service to philosophy, if Mr. Cant had given us a list of the hangmen of Perth, with the history of those circumstances in their natural character, life, and fortune, that could induce them to encounter the contempt, aversion, and abhorrence of all mankind. If, as Dr. A. Smith maintains, to be the object of attention and sympathy be the universal passion, and to be wholly excluded from all sympathetic regards worse than death, why and how are there so many hangmen? The Doctor is on the whole right: but there are exceptions to his general law, and it is really worth while to inquire into the causes of such exceptions.

Perth seems to be nearly the centre of Scotland with regard to its population; and, excepting Aberdeen, by far the greatest town in the north of Scotland, and Dundee, the greatest on the north of the Forth. There are a great many manufac-

tures here, particularly linen and cottons, and the printing of cottons is extensively carried on.

While I was sauntering about the south shore, or key, which is frequented by a number of vessels not above two hundred tons, I was struck with the ferocious conduct of an Athol highlander. Near a vessel where they were unloading coals, I observed several large carts, with excellent horses, and stout well-dressed drivers, which I learnt belonged to the duke of Athol. In the midst of these appeared a young man in a highland dress, who, with two small horses and a small and shabby cart, tried several times to get on to the place where they were unloading; but the fellows with the showy carts came in his way, jostled him out, and detained him. He could not speak the English language well: however, he knew so much of it as to inform them that he would not be detained any longer. As he was not tall, and in appearance weaker than any of them, they attempted a third time to prevent him. Irritated at their conduct, and satisfied that he was not a match for them with his whip, he drew from under his kilt, or philibeg (a short tartan petticoat worn by many of the highlanders) a sharp knife about twelve inches long, and drove all the three before him; swearing by the DOUL, which is, it seems, the Gaelic for the devil, that he would be the death of them all if they imposed upon him any more; and while the three stout fellows were trembling, he very coolly filled his cart, paid for his coals, and went his way, singing a Gaelic song.

At the inn where I lodged here, I one day fell in with a surgeon who was extremely angry. He had

been visiting a patient, who, for several days, had been growing worse. Symptoms of the disorder going off, and yet the patient every day growing worse, was what he could not comprehend. As the patient complained much of his head, the surgeon desired his night-cap to be taken off, that he might see it. The parents of the young man who was the patient were unwilling to consent to this: however, it was done; and the surgeon, to his astonishment, found that a quack physician had also been called to see him, who had put a large seal of green hot sealing wax on the crown of the young man's head, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to ward off the power of enchantment; the quack having persuaded the parents that the young man was, whatever might be said to the contrary, under the power of some enchanter. However, the enchantment being removed with some curses from the surgeon, the young man soon became better.

I was amused in conversation with some of the Perth people, with whom I accidentally fell in, in strolling about the north shore, touching the extremity of the principal street, with the dexterity by which a young man, a native of Perth, had lately obtained a very good kirk, that is, a very good church living.

The people in the parish of P—k having always been displeased with the clergyman presented by the patron to the living, he resolved to present whomsoever they should choose to be their minister, "if it should be the devil himself." This being intimated to the people upon the death of their minister, they immediately set about calling to preach

before them the young men who, in their language, were said to be gospel ministers. Five were fixed on, and invited to come and preach before them, by way of trial, who all attended, and the people had unanimously agreed to choose one of the five as their minister, according as they should find him the most orthodox and rigid Calvanist and Predestinarian. As there was an inn in the parish appointed to accommodate, at the joint expense of the parishioners, those who should preach, as also their horses and a friend, a young man on his way from Edinburgh to Perth to see his father, got himself appointed to preach to them, as it would save him the expense of himself and his horse at the inn for a night. Suiting himself to the taste of his audience, in the course of his lecture in the forenoon, he took an opportunity to harangue against the Papists. This pleased them much. In the afternoon, having dined and had something to drink, which made his pulse beat not slower than usual, he raised his voice again, not only against Papists, but Arminians; and further, began to thump the cushion.

When a clergyman, to whom they were much attached, used to preach to them, sometimes a mouse that lodged about the back of the pulpit, would come out, and run about the sounding-board, or that which hangs over the minister's head. This mouse had not been seen for six months, nor since their favourite minister preached, till now that the gentleman preaching began to thump the cushion, when the mouse again made its appearance. On this occasion, the people all agreed that this was a sign from heaven to choose the person preaching

for their minister: which they actually did. A committee, therefore, of the parishioners, was sent off to the patron without delay, who threw the presentation to them, saying, " It is signed and ready, and you may put in the blank the devil's name if you please."

FROM PERTH TO DUNDEE.

HAVING staid some time at Perth, I set out for Dundee through the Carse of Gowrie. In my way thither, I was glad to see such rich, well-dressed, and neatly inclosed fields, such substantial farm-houses, and so many evident marks of comfort among the farmers. The truth is, a good farm here is a little fortune, at least it was so some years ago; for I have the best information that a farmer got lately from lord Kinaird the sum of five thousand pounds for the right to the remainder of a lease of a farm on his lands that had only seven years to run.

As among the people on the south side of the Tweed, prejudices against the Scots, are fast subsiding, so, fortunately, this is the case in most parts of Scotland with regard to the English; and I was glad to find the farmers here not only employing English servants, English drainers, English ploughs, English horses, but having English cows, English sheep, English fashions, and almost every thing English. In short, I was glad to see them talking so much about the Bakewell breed, and the many advantages arising from their intercourse with the English.

As I was riding slowly along near Kilspendie, I met a number of what may be termed begging gipsies. They were all merry, a wedding having been lately among them, which it seems was performed

by an aged man among them, who indeed had a respectable appearance. This gipsy parson, if I may use that expression, desiring them to join hands, and having broken a wine glass in a thousand pieces, by dashing it against a stone, declared, that as it was impossible for the art of man to put the parts of that glass together, exactly as it was before, so it was impossible for the art of man to separate that man and woman, which ended the ceremony.

DUNDEE.

Having arrived at Dundee, I was, as I had been at Perth, and other places, introduced by letter to a gentleman, who shewed me much civility. Dundee is a large and populous place, containing twenty-three thousand souls, having manufactures of linen, cotton, Osnaburgs, sail cloth, sugar, glass, leather, &c. and considerable trade, principally to the Baltic and London. There is a hill rising to a great height on the north of the town, called Dundee Law, and sometimes the Bonnet Hill, from the long street or straggling village that stretches a great way up its side, being inhabited, formerly, chiefly by the makers of men's bonnets, such as we see in London, worn by the Highland soldiers. This manufacture, from the general introduction of hats, in imitation of the English, is now greatly on the decline. This straggling village, rising from the town at right angles, and the town itself, with the harbour and shipping, form a beautiful and grand object when sur-

veyed from the Ferries on the Fife side of the Tay, and may well be called *Bonny Dundee.* But what is *bonny*, is not always, in all respects, *gude.* A great part of Dundee, situated on a Morass, is very insalubrious. In Dundee, it has been remarked, there are more dwarfish, decrepid, and deformed people, and fewer that arrive at old age, than in any other town of equal size in Scotland. On the top of the hill are the remains of a camp, formed first by Edward I. of England, and afterwards repaired by general Monk.

The river Tay, before Dundee, is three miles broad; and, being sheltered from high winds, by high lands on both sides, is a safe road for ships of the greatest burthen. The harbour is thought to be not inferior to any in Scotland. But the Tay, where it joins the sea, in the bay of St. Andrews, is not entered without much caution. At Dundee, as at Perth, there is, besides the public grammar school, an academy for mathematics and modern languages.

It is remarkable that the Carse of Gowrie, so little tinctured with religious zeal, should be flanked at each end by two of the greatest garrisons for zeal of this kind in all Scotland. Though Dundee was not a rival to Perth, either at the first or second reformation above-mentioned, in 1732, it was fully as zealous for the last half of the eighteenth century. Neither is it now nearly so much distinguished as Perth, by the elasticity of a rebound towards the contrary extreme.

When a vacancy happened in one of the kirks of Dundee, about thirty years ago, scouts were sent to all parts of Scotland, renowned for popular preaching, to make reports of what they should see and

hear, to the town council. The presbytery of Auchterarder, of course, was not neglected. And here their choice was fixed. But the famous Mr. afterwards Dr. John Kemp, after enjoying the publicity of a deputation from Dundee to the presbytery, declined to accept the invitation; having a kirk in the Scottish metropolis in view, to which he was in a very short time thereafter invited. But, at the recommendation of this very man, who had refused to have any concern with their souls himself, they made choice of an intimate friend of his, a lusty thumper of the pulpit, and breathing all the zeal for calvinism of a proselyte; having been born and brought up at first among the episcopalian nonjurors. Familiarity lessens the respect and reverence due to the best of men. He is now commonly distinguished at Dundee by the name of *Dainty Davie.*

Notwithstanding what I had seen at Pitkethley, I was surprised at the indelicacy of some people at Dundee. In Holland, among many other conveniencies, you see written in Dutch, and other languages, upon elegant doors, fronting the street, cabinet, or a place for retirement, specifying which is for men, and which for women; and, lest any mistake should happen, there is the figure of a man painted on the door, in a certain attitude; and on that for women the figure of a woman, in a similar one. At Berlin, too, we are told, by a traveller, while a landlord was shewing a lodging, which a gentleman meant to rent, and all its conveniencies, they came to a neat door, with the word "cabinet" written over it. While he tried to open this, a beautiful female voice was heard, saying, wait only a moment. Soon

after, a handsome young woman came skipping out, and, without a blush, took him in to shew him the neatness of this conveniency. But the women, particularly about the shore of Dundee, are still more indelicate; for, in a certain place there, to which people occasionally retire, I saw men and women completely in sight, and so near, that they might easily, and no doubt did converse with one another.

There are strange characters, I find, to be met with every where. Mr. D —— g, the gentleman here to whom I was introduced, by letter, carried me with him, on Sunday, to an acquaintance of his. We had public prayers in the morning, went to church soon after, as also in the afternoon, and about four had dinner; the veal, &c. having been roasted the day before, as our landlord and entertainer would have thought it a crime of the deepest die to permit his servant to cook any thing on Sunday. The wines, also, were excellent; and, while the cloth was removing, I observed a large bowl of punch smoaking on a bye table, which, by the flavour, I could perceive was of excellent rum, and which, afterwards, was placed on the table, and a wine glass for each of us, who were sixteen in number, not placed immediately before us, but, as it were, on each of our right hands. In about a minute, the boy, who was in livery, came round with a wicker-basket full of well-thumbed psalm-books, and laid one before each of us. Having sung a psalm, drunk the punch, as our entertainer expressed it, to warm the cold dinner, and finished some bottles of excellent port and Madeira, we all sallied out, a third time, to church, to hear the evening lecture.

When we returned, we had tea and coffee, then family prayers, and supper, with strong beer and wine; and, after all, a good dose of rum punch to make us sleep. As my host's notions of religion were much more enthusiastic than mine, I allowed him to perform morning and evening prayers himself, and I was astonished to see him drink so heartily, though the general part of his conversation was of a gloomy and canting nature. His sons and his daughters, who were not a little accomplished, had imbibed the *nostrums* and enthusiasm of their father, and being what are called Glassites, were of opinion, that it was almost impossible for any sect of Christians to get to heaven but themselves. Indeed, I was not suprized to find the young ladies of this house Glassites, as almost every young woman of that communion is generally married young, it being a never-failing maxim of their clergy, to recommend it to young people to marry, and always adding, "The Lord will provide." Indeed, this part of the Glassites discipline and mode of preaching has many good effects. It is only attended with one bad consequence, which is, that it induces some unmarried women to join them that otherwise would not, were not this the favourite doctrine of their teachers.

But though the Glassites generally marry young, and many of them are not only virtuous and good in appearance, but in truth and reality; yet, I was sorry to find that Mr. D——g, my friend, among the Glassites, was not what I supposed him to be, when I consented to be entertained by him, and stay in his house. Being rich, and having some spare ground, he built a number of houses, and let them out at rack-rent. The ladies on the

town, (for it seems there are females of that description here also,) offered higher rent to this pious Glassite than any other, and he accepted it. And, though he cants, and prays day after day, and would make one believe he is extremely pious; yet it seems he goes and receives, month after month, the rent of his houses from those frail fair ones, though he is often told, and is perfectly certain, that what he receives is the wages of iniquity.

It has been observed, that where there is a great number of weavers collected, there new and gloomy notions of religion prevail. It was among the manufacturers of lawn, cambric, &c. in Germany and the Low Countries, that Calvinism was first introduced. It was among the Hugunots and silk weavers in France that Louis XIV. found the greatest opposition to his notions of religion. The weavers in Spitalfields were among the most active in the noise raised in 1780 by lord George Gordon bout the Papists; and, in Scotland, the weavers in Glasgow, Paisley, Perth, Dundee, &c. are always among the first to join any new sect that start up, the effect, no doubt, of their sedentary life, and the melancholy monotony of their occupation.

Dundee, like most other towns, is yearly increasing in size; and while hundreds are flocking into the towns in quest of high wages, many of the manufacturers here, as well as about Perth, Glasgow, Paisley, and the like, are going out to the country, and establishing manufactories where labour is cheap, and they are not hampered for room; and this has, and ever will be the case in a commercial

nation. The people in the country seek the high wages in the towns, and the people in the towns go to employ the poor in the country, and thus rich and poor places, as well as rich and poor kingdoms, contend with each other, and will continue to do so till, like water, which always finds its level, the one becomes as rich as the other.

PANBRIDE.

From Dundee, on my way to Aberbrothick through a tolerably well cultivated country, I arrived at Panbride. At the best inn here, which is but a small one, I found two tolerably well-dressed men arguing keenly about one of their friends. It seems, in this place lately, the wife of a man of some property, having been married for years, had no children. At length she grew sickly, and, after lingering for some years, died. During her illness, a sister of hers had come to take care of her and the house. This woman having been careful of her sister and every thing, continued to keep the house after her sister's death; and acted her part so well, that, as the man was inclined to marry, he openly declared he wished to have her for his wife. But, though she consented, they suspected the law was against it. They applied to the parson of the parish, to the presbytery, and to the synod: but there was no redress; these courts declaring the marriage would be illegal. This was the subject they

were on when I entered. I begged they would not be interrupted on my account. One of them, who had been at the church courts, and heard their decision, argued that they were wrong. He had argued in these church courts, that as the woman, who was dead, had no children, the bond of connection between the sister and him was at the death of his wife completely broken; that had she had children, the case would have been otherwise; and that he saw no reason, either in a civil or religious point of view, to prevent the man from marrying, since they were both willing, and in all probability would do worse if they were not permitted. He told me, he had argued the matter freely before the clergy, and told them, that in different ages and countries there had been different notions respecting matrimony: that Abraham, the father of the faithful, seems to have had no check of conscience for marrying Sarah, his brother's daughter, whom the translators of the Bible have called his sister; that Jacob married two sisters, Rachel and Leah; that, among many of the Tartar tribes, the fathers marry their own daughters, and send their mothers, when they arrive at forty, to labour in the kitchen; and that Cimon, the son of Miltiades, which was allowed by the laws of Athens, married his own sister. I was not a little astonished at the learning or reading of this man on the point in question. He was, it seems, an elder of the kirk. He did not seem to think the business ended, but that it must have another issue *one way*, as he said, *or other*.

Upon inquiring if there was any thing very remark-

able in this parish or neighbourhood, they spoke a great deal about the house and extensive plantations and park of Panmure, belonging, since the death of the earl, to the honourable William Ramsay Moule, his nephew. This gentleman is, I believe, the most opulent commoner in Scotland, his annual income being forty thousand pounds.

On my way to Aberbrothic, I overtook a rather shabbily dressed young man, somewhat lame, but seemingly very happy. Having asked me, without much ceremony, what I was, I replied, I would be obliged to him, by way of preliminary, if not inconvenient, to tell me what he was. He immediately replied, "Why, Sir, I am master of a large parish in this neighbourhood."—"Master of a parish! How can that be?"—"Why, Sir, I am master of the children, the children are masters of their mothers, and their mothers are masters of their fathers; hence I am master of the parish." Having heard this logical definition and inference, and my poney being disposed to go a little faster than this country schoolmaster, I bade him adieu. He had, it seems, somewhere met with the anecdote of Miltiades, who said what was similar to this of his little daughter.

ABERBROTHIC.

Having put up at the best inn at Aberbrothic, which is opposite to the church, I set out with my letters of introduction, and to make my observations. Though there are several others, I find the staple manufactures here are osnaburgs, or

brown linen, and sail cloth. This town, like many others, has increased much of late, and the people here are also much divided in their opinion about religion. The abbey is a noble building, and is less in a state of decay than any deserted monasteries I have seen either in Scotland or England.

Being introduced to some of the inhabitants here, I found that they pique themselves much on their privileges, since a freeman of this burgh has certain rights and privileges all over the kingdom; these peculiar privileges having been granted to one of the abbots of Aberbrothic, and all the burghesses, on account of his and their steady adherence to the crown during the rebellion of the nobles in the reign of James III. king of Scotland.

Paul Jones, the daring pirate, was, it seems, extremely troublesome here during the late American war; nay, so much so, that he fired many shots at the town, which were almost red-hot after they had lighted in the streets. However, though the inhabitants were dreadfully alarmed when they first saw and heard the cannon-balls whizzing over their head, and many had run to coal cellars, &c. to hide themselves, yet, like soldiers, after a first and second engagement, they became not so much afraid. Indeed, one of the weavers was so little affrighted at them, that, wishing to have one of them, he followed it after it had lighted running into the streets; but it was so hot when he came up to it, that it not only burnt his hands, but a hole in his apron, as had happened to others, while he was carrying it home. Mr. Bruce, the Church of England clergy-

man here, was, I find, in imminent danger; for, while he was but at a little distance, a ball broke in pieces the spade with which, but a few minutes before, he had been digging in his garden. The marks of the balls on some houses are to be seen at this day.

Near the harbour here I saw the bones of a whale. A few years ago, as some fishing-boats were out about eight or ten miles at their usual fishing ground, they saw something of an uncommon appearance afloat at a distance, which they found to be a dead whale with its belly uppermost, about forty feet long. Instead, therefore, of proceeding to their fishing, they fixed they hooks into their prize, and towed it to this harbour. The fishers knew the whale to be valuable, but they did not know how to cut it up and reduce it to oil, as there are no whalers belonging to this place, and it was some time before they found any that could do it. In the time, the whale began to stench intolerably; and the magistrates, before it was all cut up, lest it should produce some disorder in the place, gave orders that the remains of it should be pushed out into the sea. The people, who, standing on it, and cutting it up, knew its value to well to comply quickly, as they might have done, with this order of the magistrates, drank plenty of brandy, and seemed perfectly at their ease, for there was nobody that could come near them to compel them to desist. The whale brought them sixty or seventy pounds, and the remainder of it having been pushed into the sea, the intolerable stench gradually went off.

There is, at St. Vigean's Church, within a mile or thereabouts of Aberbrothic, which repeats distinctly every word of a moderate sentence. A gentleman lately happened to be angry with his servant, while he was at the point where the echo is best heard, fell a scolding him, and heard every word distinctly repeated in his own tone of voice; which, it being in the dark, he thought repeated by his own servant. The gentleman became extremely angry, still continuing his abusive language, under the idea that his servant was mimicking him; but on the servant coming up to him, he discovered his mistake, and instead of being angry could not help laughing.

ACHMITHY.

From viewing the seat of lord Northesk, a few miles east from Aberbrothic, where I found some elegant rooms, substantial furniture, and venerable trees, as well as extensive pleasure grounds, and an inscription in large capital letters over the servants' hall door, "Let neither want nor waste be here." I set out for Achmithy, a fishing village in the neighbourhood, to procure a boat, in order to view the famous promontory called the RED HEAD. Though I had never been there before, a few minutes after I reached the village some dozens of people came into the room where I was writing, and, taking me by the hand, said, they were glad to see me; and numbers, who had been drinking in another part of the house, said, that if I would come and taste with

them, they had reason to conclude there would soon be hundreds more. I was astonished, and, rising from my seat, begged to know what they meant. "Sit down," they replied, "there are great numbers here already, and the rest are near at hand. We have been drinking good health and prosperity to you in this part of the country." The truth is, a young man from St. Andrew's college, fell in with me here, and the people thought I was a shoemaker, from London, lately settled at Arbroath, and come with my foreman to take the measure of their feet at the inn, according to appointment made with lord Northesk's servants. Many of them told me the shoes I had sent them were excellent, and more than a dozen of them had their purses in their hand ready to pay me; while I smiled at their simplicity, and at the same time was angry with my St. Andrean acquaintance, for being disposed to take money from them, as they pressed it so much. One of them said he could not understand how I charged seven shillings for his shoes, and only five for his wife's, when it was well known that his wife's feet, as well as most of the women's feet in and about the village, were bigger than the men's. This, I understand, is the case in all fishing towns. The women are commonly bare footed, and they walk more, being constantly employed in carrying burthens.

One of the women, who, from the redness of her face, and the colour of her nose, seemed to have been drinking, having taken hold of my arm, pulled me to the middle of the room, and, putting her naked foot on a chair, began to be importunate that I should measure her. As I had told them before, I

told them positively that I was not the shoemaker, but they would not believe me; and when I had entered the boat I had engaged, with five men, four to row and one to steer, as they will not go out with fewer, lest they should be blown off the coast, the crowd followed me, pressing me to measure them, as they had tarried long for me, and it would perhaps be late before I returned. Thinking the young man from St. Andrews my foreman, they begged him to take some measures for me; and he going into the interior of Angus to his friends, with not too much in his purse, told me he was once or twice almost tempted to take money from some fat stout fisher-women, and farmer's wives, who, from the fish bones, and empty bottles, he saw lying about them, as well as from the colour of their faces, and their frequent and loud peals of laughter, seemed not only to have eaten and drunk heartily, but to be in excellent health and spirits, and easy circumstances. From what I had said in the house, and now at the boat, a doubt began to arise among them, whether I were really the shoemaker or not. At length a fine healthy woman, with a blooming young woman, her daughter, came to me, and very civilly asked me if I would allow them to look at my hands, without my gloves; which immediately being done, they went off to those that had not come on board, saying, I could not be the person, as my hands were white, with long small fingers, and not like a shoemaker's. Pugh, said the rest, that is nothing; he is the master; he does not work; London shoemakers and tailors go in their coaches; and, you know, it would be a terrible thing for a man, unless he had a fine white hand, to ven-

ture to measure, or even touch the foot of a London lady.

Having given the boatmen a shilling each, being what they demanded, and left these simple, and seemingly happy people, I proceeded on my excursion, and was much pleased with the majestic and stupendous appearance of the Red-Head. It seems in height to be about a hundred feet perpendicular, and consists of a red, hard, sandy coloured rock; encrusted in many places with a red species of moss, similar to that which grows on brick and old stone walls; but, as there was a great swell in the sea, and the waves rolled with great violence at the bottom, and had hollowed it underneath, so as to make many parts of the rock overhang the sea, I durst not approach near enough to ascertain, if there were any other physical causes for the peculiar dark redish colour of the rocks all along this part of the coast. Myriads of gannets, or solan geese, sea-gulls, king's-fishers, and other sea birds, were perpetually on the wing, over our head; fetching food for their young, in nests on the shelves of the rock, near the top, screaming and making a noise, which, with that of the tremendous waves, dashing and breaking at the foot, conveyed a peculiar sound, which, however pleasant it may be to some, did not excite any pleasant emotions in my mind. I had a quadrant with me, for taking altitudinal and longitudinal distances; but the violent agitations of the boat prevented me from taking the altitude of Red-Head, as I intended.

Keeping by the sea-coast, on my way to Montrose, I passed Lunan. The bay of Lunan, which is very narrow, but deep, insinuates itself very pleasantly

into a small bay or bason of land, well cultivated, and presents a station for ships, so extremely safe and commodious, that I wonder it has not attracted the capital and enterprize of commercial people. Every thing here is on a small scale. The bay is small, the parish is small, the church is small, and I fear the ministers stipend is but small. The whole souls of the parish of Lunan do not amount to 300. The church is not bigger than a large dining-room.

The line of road through this part of the country is tolerably good, and the fields in general under excellent culture. I entered Montrose, passing by an elegant bridge of seven arches, over the South Esk, and was not a little surprised at the singular taste of the people, who have in general the ends of their houses towards the street.

MONTROSE.

I was much pleased with the neat appearance of the gentlemen's houses, many of whom choose to reside here, and in this neighbourhood, not only during the winter, but also the summer; but sorry to find that the people do not live in such harmony and friendship as could be wished. For, not long ago, the landed gentlemen had a splendid ball in the town-hall, while it was written over the ball-room door, "None of the burgesses to enter here." Some of the gentlemen's daughters would have had no objections to have seen the handsome young men of the town, but the law was passed, and the squires had determined it should be obeyed. Soon after, the burgesses had a much more splendid and numerously-attended

ball, and it was written over the door, "None but burgesses to enter here."

I visited the schools, which are in a fine airy situation in the Links, or Common, at a small distance from the town, and the English chapel, which is neat, and has a well toned organ; as also the mad-house, where I was sorry to find so many totally deprived of their reasoning faculties. The parish church is large and well attended, though there is a misunderstanding between the people and their pastors. One of the clergymen, it seems, who has zeal enough, and whom the people had chosen in preference to others, to shew his piety and respect for the sabbath, would not suffer any of his hearers to read newspapers, or any but religious books on that day. This, which happened some years ago, began a quarrel, which is not yet ended; and, which will, in all probability, oblige the clergyman to give up his living. Archbishop Laud wished for an act of parliament, authorising the people to amuse themselves on the sabbath-day in any way they pleased; but the clergyman here was in the habit, it seems, of going through the streets on the Sunday afternoons; and, when he saw more than two of them together, ordering them to separate and retire to their devotions.

I was sorry to hear of the fate of a young lady, of respectable connections, not far from this place. A number of strolling players, having some years ago gone to the north country, to try what they could pick up, and been seen by this lady, she unfortunately fell in love with one of them. The player, having learned the conquest he had made, was ex-

tremely glad, and professed his regard in return. When the players were about leaving the burgh where the young lady resided, and which is about forty miles north of Aberdeen, agreeably to a concerted plan, the young lady made her escape from her father's house, and was escorted by another player, who had been appointed to conduct her to Montrose. When they had got their prize there, and she thought herself happy, her happiness was in a moment blasted; for the young man, who had conducted her to Montrose, thought he had as good a right to her as the other. The young man with whom she fell in love insisting she was his, and proceeding to blows to vindicate his right, received, in the presence of the young lady, a cut with a clasped knife across the belly, from the person that conducted her thither, that laid his bowels open. The person who had done the deed, upon the cry of murder, was instantly seized. However dreadful, the wound happened not to be mortal, the vitals being injured, but not quite cut through. Dr. Bate, being fortunately at hand, the bowels were examined and put in, and the gash sewed up. And when the wound was healed, which was not for several months, they were married: but having no independent fortune, and her parents utterly abandoning her, she and her husband are, at this day, and have been ever since this foolish step, the constant companions of poverty and want.

When a certain nobleman's sister fell in love with Mr. C. and there was danger, notwithstanding all that was said to her, that she would inform him of her favourable opinion, the nobleman went into C.'s company, spoke friendly, and laid a bet of five

thousand guineas that he could not be married in twenty-four hours. C. by whom, it is said, one woman was just as much beloved as another, eager to gain the five thousand guineas, sallied out, he knew not whither; and, before twenty-four hours, got himself married. And thus the nobleman saved his sister's reputation.

How different the destiny of man! A person here, one of the magistrates, from being a pedlar and shopkeeper, has made a fortune, and rolls in his carriage, while his brother, a pious and well-behaved man, having been lamed by the stroke of a horse, is often in want of a dinner; and, literally, has not sometimes clothes to his back: nor will the rich brother assist him.

There are uncommon characters to be found, where we least expect them. A gentleman in this neighbourhood, being at Aberbrothic, some years ago, where a company of strolling players happened to be acting, became enamoured with one of the actresses, on account of her singing. As the gentleman was not thirty years of age, and had landed property, free from incumbrance, of more than a thousand pounds a year, as may be supposed, she agreed to marry him. She generally dressed elegantly, and was not unhandsome. When she came home to his house in this neighbourhood, she brought her mother, an old play-actress, and a boy with her, whom she called her brother; but who, at length, was found to be her son. This gentleman being now married, and in possession of an ample fortune, wished to have a library. Going to Aberdeen, and falling in with a bookseller, in a large room, selling books by auction, he hallowed, "Ho! Mr. Bookseller,

why higgle with them one by one? pray what will you have for the whole?" He replied, a hundred guineas. Ninety-five for them, cried the gentleman; which being accepted, the next order was to bind them all elegantly, and gild them on the back.

Several of this gentleman's friends came to see him, after his marriage, and among the rest a younger brother, who, being introduced to the new married lady, became somewhat uneasy. When the husband retired, madam, said the young man, I am extremely sorry for what has happened. Pugh! said she, these things will happen. There is no help for it. Never mind it. This young man, being at Perth, where she happened to be performing the year before, it seems, had lived with her for some time.

When formerly in this neighbourhood, I had been in company with this new married squire, and been invited to dine with him, but this I could not do. However, calling on him in the afternoon, about five, and inquiring at the door if the squire was at home, I was answered yes; but was sorry to find him just going to bed. Being at the top of the stairs, he asked me to come up; which, while I was doing, it being summer, I observed him coming down the stairs with nothing on but his shirt. I started back, and offered to retire, but he insisted that I should come up stairs. I, however, retired, but he came running down after me, and would have followed me into the street naked as he was, if I had not obeyed him. Having consented to stay a minute or two, he took me by the hand, and led me into his library, where there was a neat sofa, and a small round table, covered with green cloth, that

moved on wheels. As he insisted that I should sit down, as he had done, I obeyed. While telling me how he bought his books, he rang the bell, and a neat boy in livery appeared. He ordered some rum and water, which, though I did all I could to prevent it, was brought. He insisted on my making some, which I reluctantly did, as he had done the same, though only in his shirt. While ringing the bell, he said you must see my wife. I was extremely uneasy, and wished to retire. However, I had hopes she either would not come, or, upon entering the room, would immediately retire. In less than a minute, an elegantly dressed lady made her appearance, highly powdered, and, having a train near two yards long, sweeping the floor behind her. Dropping a curtsey, she approached us. How I looked I know not, but I felt extremely uneasy. Though I had heard her history, as she was the lawful wife of a gentleman of considerable landed property, I rose; and, making my bow, wished to retire; which he would not permit. As he was on one side of the sofa, he desired her to sit down on the other, which she did. Not having occasion to speak, as the squire said every thing, I was extremely glad. He told me he never rose till about ten in the morning; that he could not move till he got a glass or two of rum, or brandy, as his hand always shook much in the morning; that he could eat nothing but a small bit of salt ham, fish, or something tasty, as he expressed it, to breakfast; that he generally walked a little in the forenoon, dined about three, got drunk about four, and went to bed about five in the evening; that his lady was extremely kind to him, giving

Thurston inv.t

J. Baldrey fecit

Mr_ receiving a Visitor in his Shirt.

him the rum and brandy in the morning, before he moved from his bed, and that he believed without this kindness of hers, he should have been in his grave sometime ago. In speaking of a gentleman, his own brother-in-law, he said, "I am certain he was neither gotten nor born, but exploded by the devil in flying over the Mearns." Looking at his wife, who was smiling, and seemed highly pleased at his strange conversation, he said, "My dear, I am afraid you are unwell; for I never saw any person look so ill as you do; except Jack Catch, when he was about to hang Tom Rawling, his acquaintance, at Portsmouth." In short, his whole conversation was extremely eccentric, nay, even blasphemous; for he swore by the ninth curl of Moses's wig, the great God's tobacco-box, &c. When I insisted to be gone, he said you must put a book in your pocket, as all my friends do. It was for that purpose I asked you here. I bought them all at once, and got them reasonably. When going down stairs, he cried after me, farewell, God bless you. The gentleman in whose house I saw you, although my relation, is a scoundrel. I wish I saw——but what he said cannot be repeated. I put an elegant volume of the Spectator in my pocket, to please him. I never was in his house before, and never shall be again. I was glad when I got out of the house, having never been so disagreeably situated before.

It is a serious misfortune, and not unfrequently a great calamity to a man to be exempted from the necessity of application to business, by coming to the possession of an independent fortune, without a taste for the true enjoyment of it. It is among the prin-

cipal advantages of a liberal education, that it expands the mind, awakens curiosity, refines the imagination, and, by a taste for the sciences and arts, prevents the languor of inoccupation—the dreadful ennui—as a refuge from which, men plunge, like this unhappy gentleman, into the most degrading sensuality and debauchery.

A gentleman related to the above, in this neighbourhood, had peculiarities of a different kind. Having married a gentleman's only daughter, she had a son to him, whom he said he was to breed to the army; and to teach him, as he expressed it, to stand fire, he frequently, to the terror of both the child and his mother, before he was three months old, fired pistols within a few feet of the child's ear. The consequence was, that although the young lady had married him against her father and friends' will, she was soon disgusted at his conduct, and eloped with another.

It is to be lamented, that religion is so little regarded here, and that even pious clergymen, through their own simplicity, are sometimes imposed upon by the eccentricities of their rich parishioners. I am led to this remark from a circumstance that happened in this neighbourhood lately. A gentleman laid a handsome bet, that, however pious, he would soon make the parson of the parish drunk. A party was formed, and a splendid dinner prepared at the gentleman's house; and the parson, being invited to be of the party, attended. The servants had orders, when they helped the parson to beer or porter, to put privately a little brandy into it; as also, if pos-

sible, into his wine, when he called for it. The parson was the only man in the company who did not know the landlord's drift in being so uncommonly attentive to him. Before dinner was over, the parson had drank enough, but not too much; however, being pressed to taste this and the other wine, though naturally sober, he began to be off his guard. At length, feeling himself sick, he stept out, and there being a draw-well near the house, he went to lean on the fence surrounding it, and, looking into the well, began to throw up. The servants observing, cried, "What shall we do, the well is spoiled." By this the gentleman gained the hundred guineas staked; but, though the well was cleaned more than once, so much influence has the imagination over some of our actions, that nobody would use it for months, thinking it had a peculiar taste; and they were obliged, for months, to fetch all the water used by the family more than a mile, there being no water nearer, except the well they supposed to be spoiled.

It is unfortunate that the sabbath, as is too often the case in many parts of England, as well as in other parts of Europe, is beginning in Scotland to be the most debauched and worst spent day in the week; and, instead of being, as it sometimes is called, the Lord's, perhaps should be named the devil's day. Not long ago, in this neighbourhood, a number of people, immediately upon leaving the church, went into a public-house to drink. During the afternoon, it came into their heads that the church would have been better had it been placed

about twenty yards back, and more in the centre of the church-yard. They therefore proposed to move it that evening; and about twenty of them going out, and placing themselves at the end of the church, they proposed, as it would be heavy, first to move one end, and then the other, while one of them was appointed to stand at a distance, and tell them when to stop. When they had put their shoulders to it, at first it appeared to them heavy, and they complained that it would not move. However, pushing with all their might, and all one way, they imagined it at length in motion, and moving their feet as if it had been moving, the person at a distance cried, "Stop, stop, bring it back a little, you have gone too far." They went to the other end and did the same; and all returned to the public-house and began to drink again, perfectly satisfied that they had moved the church from where it was into the centre of the church-yard.

Montrose, though its population does not greatly exceed five thousand, is the principal town between Dundee and Aberdeen. It is a very handsome town, delightfully situated between the rivers of the North and South Esk. It has a good harbour, though, I understand, not always easy of access, and a good deal of trade and shipping. The salmon fisheries here are valuable, and form a good branch of commerce. There is not any Leviathan here, as at Perth, to swallow up the other dealers in fish. I am persuaded, on my word, that such a Leviathan would not be endured here. Montrose and the vicinity would be made too hot for him.

At the inns of Montrose you may have a dish of salmon, as well as of all other kinds of fish, very reasonably. Montrose, notwithstanding the little bickerings I have mentioned, is a lively, gay, social, and hospitable place, and very far removed from any thing like the druidical gloom, hoggishness, and penuriousness, that, till lately, characterized an inland town in a neighbouring county.

From MONTROSE to ABERDEEN.

From Montrose I passed through the Mearns, with a design to go to Fetter-Cairn at the opening of a famous pass into the Grampians.

In this part of the country, as well as many others in Scotland, the strength of the arm was in many instances formerly the law of justice. Till about one hundred years ago, the inhabitants on the north side of the Grampians used to come down on what is called the How, or Hollow of the Mearns, and drive before them the people and their cattle till they came to Fetter-Cairn, where they bound the people hand and foot, and left them; assured that, by the time they got one another loosed, which they could not do by any other means than their teeth, they themselves could be off among the hills with the cattle, where they could not be easily pursued. The place where the people were left bound and fettered came to be called by the name of Fetter-Cairn.

What effects will not industry produce, and how much does even one enlightened farmer add to the beauty and fertility of a country! I am led to this remark from the improvement I observed in Luthermuir, not far from Montrose. Some years ago this muir, or common, though nearly a mile long and half as broad, scarcely brought the proprietor five pounds sterling a year. An observing farmer, perceiving that this muir was nearly le-

vel, free from stones, and could be easily drained, went and offered the proprietor fifty pounds sterling for a fifty years lease of it. The proprietor, astonished, most readily granted the lease. The farmer immediately proceeded to surround the whole muir with a deep ditch, and crossed it with ditches, which, while it completely drained it, formed it into parks. He next, in order to tear up the furze and broom with which it was overgrown, yoked six strong horses to a large and strong plough, which tore them all up by the roots; and, having gathered these, he burned them, limed, and otherwise ameliorated the muir. All his improvements, including the houses built on it, did not cost much above a thousand pounds. I have no doubt but the farm now netts three or four hundred pounds a year.

Were it not for the firs, &c. that have been planted lately, this part of the country would be extremely in want of the article of fuel, the peat mosses being almost completely exhausted. Indeed, some years ago, so much were the inhabitants in want of fuel, that, as is done in some places in Moray, they sowed broom, as well for fuel as for food, and a purgative to their sheep in the spring. I was sorry to see some poor people grubbing up the roots of fir and other trees, which, it being a stony place, they did with much difficulty, merely for the purpose of fuel.

As I rode slowly along, I beheld, at a distance, on the banks of the Esk, a great number of people in their Sunday clothes dancing on a green, near a large tent covered with canvasses, blankets, &c. It was a country wedding, where near four hundred

people were assembled. There being a small inn in the neighbourhood, I put up my horse, and went to observe this rural scene. On a fine green or lawn the tent was stretched to the extent of forty or fifty feet; and a number of temporary tables of fir deal, with forms on each side. Two or three great cauldrons were boiling, filled with, I dare say, a hundred fowls, and a great number of mutton hams. There were pots also in which legs of mutton were stewed. The broth of the fowls and ham, boiled with onions, barley, &c. was a dish fit for kings. At the cauldrons stood women with pitchforks, stirring about the immense mass with both their hands, which seemed to require all their strength. A great number of gypsies, called in Scotland *Tinklers*, and beggars, sat in groups at some distance, and sent deputations after dinner had began for some time, to receive their portion in their own wooden dishes. This was sent without hesitation. It seemed to be considered as no more than their due on such a jovial occasion. The genteeler part of the guests were entertained in the tent, where there was wine. At the tables in the field, at one of which I seated myself, there was no wine, but great abundance of ale and whisky punch. This carousing at weddings is sometimes continued for three or four successive days, not by the same company, but by new comers.

I find, that on such occasions, the new-married pair sometimes save fifty, sixty, or even an hundred pounds, each person paying five shillings at least, besides what drink they call for. I saw all kinds of rural mirth going on, some at reels, others

at country dances, minuets, fandangoes, highland capers, &c.

Though I wish to speak the truth, and represent characters and objects as they appear, yet I do not wish to offend. However, if my remarks be in any degree useful, though by making them I should offend some, I care the less. To do good, not to snarl, is my object. The errors of education are often observed, when it is too late to rectify them: so it was found lately by a family in this neighbourhood. Their father was rich, but then he loved his money, and hated to give away even a pittance for the education of his children. Whatever happened, all was well, if he saved money. Though he had extensive landed property, and was every year purchasing more, he would not buy a chain to his watch, because it would take money from him, and wear his breeches. To save money, his sons were often kept at home; to save money they often had no preceptor; and though he was able to procure them respectable situations, to save money, and at the same time get clear of them, though they had the title of honourable, he only gave each of them a farm, saying, "You are young, and able to work." His eldest son, however, would not live on a farm, but went to the army, sold his commission, and squandered the thousand pounds he got for it in Edinburgh in the course of six weeks. The youngest son set up his carriage, though he had no money, and unfortunately fell out of it while crossing a river near Montrose, and was drowned in the very prime of life. The eldest son died at an early age, having lived too fast; and

gacity, "as I mean to offer you something for this diminutive animal of yours, pray tell me all his good qualities, and, among the rest, whether he can speak?" "No," replied the shoemaker, with a bow; "but if you happen to purchase him, I suppose you will speak enough for yourself and him too."

Relinquishing my design of proceeding to Fetter-Cairn, from Brechin I went to Lawrence Kirk, a village about twelve or fifteen miles distant, created by the late lord Gardenstone, on the most liberal and patriotic principles. Here I fell in with Colville, lord Ochiltree. His lordship, like the weaver at Perth, who some time ago succeeded to a Scottish peerage, had been a journeyman carpenter, and some of the Scotch peers hunting for votes, found him at his saw, and got some old papers trumped up, by which he was dubbed lord Ochiltree, and actually voted at two elections of peers at Edinburgh, without having the validity of his vote called in question; and he had, as he was poor, not only received handsome presents from the peers, but a pension of forty pounds a year, with a house, garden, &c. from lord Gardenstone, at Lawrence Kirk. But there is no complete happiness here below. Lord Ochiltree, who had been often styled the right honourable, who had been often visited by the peers, and whose sons, and his daughter, who was married to a stocking weaver, had taken the title of honourable, having gone to Edinburgh, and voted, as they term it, against the ministry, was called in question as to his right to vote, and his right having been canvassed in the house of peers, he was unlorded, if I may use the expression. When I saw him, he was

mourning over his and his family's fallen greatness, and cursing the house of peers for the injustice, as he termed it, of their sentence. Indeed, it was perhaps as well that this carpenter did not remain among the peers; as, though by no means wrong in the head, he could not help intermixing among the accounts of his greatness and his noble acquaintance, a history of the doors of this and the other nobleman he had made and mended, the locks he had repaired and fastened, and the various kinds of nails he thought best and cheapest. To satirize nobility, one has only to draw the characters of this poor vain carpenter, and the duke of Q—, both destitute of those noble and generous ideas that constitute nobility, though in a different way, the one never having had them, and the other destroying them after they had been implanted in him, as I presume they were, by an education suitable to his birth.

At Lawrence Kirk I found what is termed an album, or book, at the inn, in which every person is allowed to write what they please. I found some of the first characters, as to rank and fortune, both male and female, had wrote in this book, and that, except a few, most people had transcribed from books, or written nonsense. I have seen another, and, perhaps, a better way of collecting the scattered rays of wit and wisdom, and that is, having two, three, or four quires of paper bound, either quarto or folio, and pasting upon the leaves of it caricature and other prints, cutting out and pasting on them, or transcribing out of newspapers, magazines, &c. &c. witty, valuable, and humourous say-

ings. By persevering in this way, for some time, and inserting whatever may be said in company worth remembering, a book of this kind has, and may become a high amusement to all descriptions of people.

While riding from Lawrence Kirk to St. Cyrus, which I did by the nearest road, and through, upon the whole, a tolerably well cultivated country, I could not help observing with what eagerness some little birds were flying after and attending a cuckoo, and gulphing up his *fæces* as it dropped from him. Many think that these little birds follow him merely for amusement; but they forget, that as the cuckoo almost entirely lives on flies, which he catches when he is on the wing, his fœces are rich, and greedily sought after by several species of birds, and thought by them most savoury while warm, and before they fall to the ground. Nor is this conduct of the little birds, with regard to the cuckoo, more extraordinary than the conduct of many rational beings with regard to a certain species of birds which live, and build their nests in the eastern parts of the world. It is well known that these birds build their nests somewhat as swallows do, and that these nests, which are composed of many valuable particles both from the spice trees and other vegetable, as well as marine productions, are eagerly sought for, not for the eggs and young, but for the nests themselves, which are broken down and reduced to soup, not only by the inhabitants of Asia, &c. but by many of the rich inhabitants of London: for whose use thousands of these nests are imported yearly, some of which I have seen. But though the soup made from them is

said to be the richest and the most nutritive that can be made, yet I confess, as I happened to see it cooked, and the feathers, &c. &c. skimmed from it, I did not like it.

While at St. Cyrus, I observed men pursuing different tracks, yet having the same end in view. Here I met, if I may use the expression, a religious quack in the inn, haranguing the people on the abstruse points of divinity, that neither they nor he understood, in order that he might wheedle a little money from them; and, at the same time, a pedler at the door, who, while he exhibited his baubles and trinkets, took an opportunity to shew the young people obscene prints and books, some of which he sold here at least five hundred per cent. Naked prints and fashions are too much the taste of the day. The ladies carried modesty, perhaps, too far in the days of Oliver Cromwell, when they got it enacted, that men should not be allowed to wear nankeen breeches; but people run now into the opposite extreme, and the dresses, particularly in the opera, are certainly too immodest, which is perhaps the reason why Mr. Rowland Hill styles the opera and the play-houses the hot-beds of the devil. At the shews of gladiators, the Romans prohibited women from being present, as they fought naked. Though good moral lessons are sometimes taught by the drama, yet not only in the opera house, but also at our theatres, the language, dress, and some of the actions of the actors, are such as cannot be beheld, even by a man, without inconveniency and blushing.

Having left St. Cyrus, I passed through Inverbervie, a small burgh, where there is but little trade, and scarcely any manufactories, on my way to Dunnotter, which is an old castle, where immense ruins shew what it has one day been. It is well known that Dunnotter belonged to the earl marshal of Scotland; and that, till gunpowder was discovered, it was thought impregnable. It is situated on a high perpendicular rock almost surrounded by the sea. On the part where it is accessible, which is very narrow, there are three gate-ways within each other, and to each was formerly affixed a portcullis. But though Cromwell reduced this fort by means of his cannon, yet he was disappointed in not obtaining the crown jewels lodged there, which was what he wished. Sir David Carnegie, being a staunch loyalist, was appointed keeper of this castle in the days of Charles I. and the crown jewels were carried there, from Edinburgh Castle, as a place of safety. When Dunnotter was likely to submit, Sir David's lady obtained leave from Oliver's commanding officers to retire. They examined her trunks, paraphanalia, &c.; but, as it was fashionable for the ladies in those days to spin, she packed the crown jewels among her spinning wool, or in the centre of clues of yarn rolled round them, and this was suffered to pass without being examined. By the assistance of friends she could trust, she buried them till the time should come when they might be presented to her lawful sovereign. The unmarried ladies in England are styled spinsters to this day, referring to the way in which ladies used to amuse themselves. It

was no uncommon thing to see the late countess of Leven in her carriage, while out an airing, with a neat little brass spinning-wheel that hung at her belt. Between Inverbervie and Stonehaven the road runs all the way on cliffs by the sea-side.

STONEHAVEN.

The situation of this town struck me greatly, as being uncommonly picturesque, and at the same time excellently adapted to commerce. It consists of two streets, extended on the coast of a small bay, with a rocky bottom, at the foot of some high cliffs, covered on the top with verdant turf, near the old castle of Dunnotter. The harbour is good, and well sheltered. It has manufactures of sail-cloths, osnaburgs, brown linens, knit worsted and thread stockings. But I wonder that it has not a trade, and a very great trade too, in corn, as it is so well situated for an outlet to the corn of the Mearns. Perhaps some one, with a proper capital, and spirit of mercantile adventure, may avail himself of this hint. There is a great deal of fishing at Stonehaven.

Adjoining to the town is a new, large, and regularly built village, called also STONEHAVEN, built by Mr. Barclay, of Urie, a gentleman who unites, with a happy rural economy, polite manners, and manly virtues.

When I had arrived at the inn at Stonehaven, I was ushered into a splendid coffee-room, where I found two gentlemen in close conversation, which my company seemed to interrupt. Not wishing to

discommode them, and being in a corner, however rude it might appear, I pretended to sleep. From their conversation I found that an exceedingly handsome young man, who, having lived some years on the continent, as companion to a nobleman, and made in that employment about twenty thousand pounds, had taken a house in the neighbourhood, where he meant to reside; and to shew his hospitality, and become acquainted, he had issued circular cards, inviting the gentlemen and ladies in the neighbourhood to a ball and supper at his house. Though there were ill-natured whispers and surmises as to some parts of this gentleman's conduct, yet many returned a polite answer, intimating that they would attend. However, Mr. D—, a gentleman of considerable landed property, and influence, being in a public company, asked an acquaintance if he was going to that scoundrel's ball. In consequence of what was said by Mr. D. in this company, many of the invitation cards were returned, with letters, intimating, that though they had promised, yet they found they could not attend. The stranger, learning the cause of the return of so many cards, came to Stonehaven; and finding that the gentleman, who had mentioned him so disrespectfully, was with many others in the coffee-room, went into it, and coming up close to him, said, "Are you Mr. D.? Being answered in the affirmative, he immediately, with much seeming composure, took Mr. D. by the nose, kicked him in the rear, and then bowing to the company, retired. Being summoned for an assault and battery, as the lawyers term it, before the justiciary court at Aber-

deen, the stranger was fined an hundred pounds sterling for what he had done. This he immediately paid, saying, with a bow to the judges, that he would willingly give another hundred for an opportunity of doing the like again. Though this young man's first ball was not numerously attended, there have, it seems, been many well attended balls in his house since.

From Stonehaven to Aberdeen the great road is, without exception, among the very best in Britain. The roads about London are, no doubt, smooth and level, but they are not better, nor many of them so good, and the direction of the new is infinitely preferable to the old line of road between Stonehaven and the bridge of Dee: over the Denburn, a rivulet running through a den, where you enter Aberdeen from the north, there has been lately thrown a fine bridge, consisting of one stupendous arch. This arch is the grandest of any in Britain.

Among the various improvements of the present day, there is none of more importance than that of carrying a road round the projection of a hill or high ground, instead of forcing it over it.

ABERDEEN

Consists of two towns, the old and the new; but the new, which is the sea-port and harbour, and by far the largest, is the daughter of the old. The two cities of Aberdeen contain about twenty-five thousand souls, and there are about five thousand in the suburbs. The trade of Aberdeen, which is in a very flourishing state, is chiefly to Hamburg, Hol-

land, and the Baltic, and the port of London; and a few vessels to the Mediterranean, laden with fish, salted beef and pork. Its chief manufacture, woollen, thread, and cotton stockings, but chiefly woollen, of which they send a vast quantity annually to Holland and Germany. The soil, naturally as barren as possible, is forced to be very productive, by the perseverance, and the dirt of Aberdeen. The natural riches of Aberdeen are, the Sea, the Don, and the Dee, and granite quarries.

There is a college both at the Old and New Town, which are only a mile distant; each tolerably well attended; and though Drs. Campbell, Beattie, and Gerrard, have all lately gone to their forefathers, yet their successors bid fair for keeping up the reputation of the university.

While viewing the curiosities of this place, I was not a little surprised to find a house used both as a church and a playhouse. The clergyman, who officiates in it, when he arrived at Aberdeen, gave the people a specimen of his abilities as a preacher, begged to know of what sect or denomination of christians they wished him to be, and what doctrines they wished him to preach, promising that he would accommodate to them. However absurd and unbecoming this declaration; yet, having a good sonorous voice, and a sufficient degree of effrontery, he collected a number of hearers.

A company of players had come to Aberdeen, and wished for a place where they might perform. As this divine's church was only employed on Sunday, he thought it would fetch some money to let it to the players: thus, on Sunday, setting it apart for the

worship of God; and, agreeably to the opinion of some, the rest of the week for the service of the devil.

As all strangers are, I was admitted to one of their musical assemblies, which was conducted with the utmost propriety, and shewed that the performers were not only acquainted with antient, as well as modern compositions, but also with the powers of harmony, and those peculiar combinations of sound that are calculated to raise the most delightful sensations.

Though to some on the south side of the Tweed, the people here may be thought, comparatively speaking, barbarous, yet they have only to come and see, in order to be convinced that there are as well bred, as well dressed, and as polite people at Aberdeen, as anywhere in Britain.

There is perhaps no city in Britain where more spirited improvements are going on, than at Aberdeen, and no place in Europe where, in the course of the last fifty years, a greater revolution in general has taken place in the people's notions, customs, manners, &c. for the better. In short, the very lowest classes of the people are become much more enlightened than they were. In the year 1745, upon some muskets and bayonets being sent to Aberdeen, to be distributed to the inhabitants, a certain old magistrate, having the good of his country at heart, and afraid lest the citizens, not knowing how to use the bayonets, should hurt one another, and as they might be of high consequence, were they to fall into the hands of the rebels, moved, That the muskets should be dispersed among the inhabitants, but that

the bayonets, those outlandish weapons, should be taken some miles into the sea, and heaved overboard.

However, refinement in manners has not here, any more than in other places, made all the people what they ought to be. Mr. B. an apothecary, lately paid his addresses to a young lady, who, he knew, had some money at her own disposal; and he managed matters so as to induce the young lady to give him a few hundreds, without asking any bill or bond from him. However, after he had got the money, his visits, though frequent, were not so much so as before; nor his arguments for her to marry him so frequent or urgent. She began to suspect it was the money he wanted; and, therefore, wished to have some security for it; as he had got almost her all; but yet she did not like to ask it, lest he might be offended. Thus circumstanced, she pretended to be ill, and sent for him twice or three times, as a physician. Her servant ran a fourth time, telling him her mistress was at the point of death. When he arrived, and saw her, he told those around her that he was afraid she was going, and that he was sorry for it. She was speechless, and indeed pale, like a corps, her face having been rubbed with chalk; and she feigned death so well, that the apothecary actually thought she was dead. He told them to bury her the best way they could, and that, if he could, he would attend her funeral; though he rather feared it would not be in his power. On his saying this, without any manner of concern, nay, rather, by the tone of his voice, seemingly glad, the young woman, who heard every word distinctly, rose

from her bed, and said, "you impudent scoundrel! but you are mistaken, and you shall not leave this room till you give me security for the money: then go and never let me see your face again." The poor apothecary, confounded and astonished, offered to marry her instantly; but she insisted and obtained security for her money, and refused his offer of marriage with the utmost disdain.

However improbable it may appear to the landholders in England, yet certain it is, that an acre of land in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen fetches near double the rent to the proprietors than an acre does in the neighbourhood of London; and being forced by manure from the city, as all lands about great towns generally are, produces equally good crops. The poors rates in England amount nearly to five millions a year, three of which are paid in and about London; which, being proportioned according to the rent of land, becomes a heavy burden on the occupier; and, consequently, lessens its value very considerably to the proprietor.

As I was walking the streets here one day, I heard two men speaking loud, and following me. One of them, being a plumber, and having been in the country with a lead coffin, to a certain great man, who it seems did not possess all the virtues, swore he had soldered the lid of the coffin so firmly down, that even the devil himself would not get his lordship out of it.

The colleges here have, for some time past, been accused of conferring degrees, without examining minutely into the qualifications of the persons on whom they were conferred. This report, whether

true or false, has determined, it seems, the professors to tie up one anothers hands, and be a little more cautious whom they honour. The truth is, like the Grecians, who created three hundred statues to Demetrius Phalerius, thereby making the honour of a statue nothing, so injudicious have the professors here been in conferring their degrees, that the title of Dr. is become a kind of nick-name, and so common, that many who deserve it, and enjoy it, would wish to lay it aside.

There is something I find even in names that creates prejudice. In the neighbourhood of London, where a great many houses were built and building, the place somehow went by the name of Botany Bay; and this very circumstance prevented some, that otherwise would have taken houses there, from doing it. This induced the proprietors and builders to apply to parliament, to give it the name of Somerstown, which had the desired effect, in making the houses let. Something of this kind happened to me, when at Aberdeen; for, when in my own mind I had fixed on lodgings, yet I did not take them, though neat and every way to my mind, because they were in the street called the GUESTS (Ghosts) Row: not choosing my letters to be sent to me directed to a place having such a name. It is astonishing that the proprietors do not procure an act, at least of the town-council, for changing its name.

They have a tolerable collection of natural and artificial curiosities, both at the Old Town and New Town Colleges; and professor James Beattie, of the New Town College, nephew to the late Dr. Beattie, seems to know more of natural history, and the important

and now fashionable branches of knowledge, connected with it, than any other person I know in any part of Scotland; except the accomplished professor Ogilvie, of King's College here. Professor Copland has evidently an excellent turn for mechanics, and an uncommonly neat apparatus for philosophical experiments, though the language in which he communicates his ideas is certainly too often ungrammatical, particularly when he happens to use Latin phrases and terms.

But what I thought the most perfect of the kind, though nothing when compared to that at Slough, near Windsor, where Dr. Herschel resides, and that at the Observatory at Portsmouth, both of which I have inspected narrowly, was, the telescope and moon glass at the Old Town College.

There are some branches of knowledge taught here, with tolerable care and success, but there are two things that strike me as rather surprising; that the collection of natural curiosities is not greater, as the funds of the colleges are considerable; and that one of the colleges is not carried to Inverness. There is no occasion for duplicates of a college at Aberdeen.

There is no preventing young men, when collected together, from sometimes doing mischief.—However, tricks, which endanger life, ought not only to be discouraged, but the perpetrators of them severely punished. At the Old Town College lately, a young English gentleman, seeing a carrier come frequently to the college with provisions, &c. for a young man, from his mother in the country, and finding that he seemed on a cold day to relish a glass of spirits, and

took it in a peculiar way, first holding the glass steadily in his hand, and then suddenly carrying it to his mouth, and tumbling it, in a moment, down his throat, asked permission to give the carrier a glass, when he came again; which, being granted, he brought his bottle and gave the carrier a glass of the spirit of wine, which, upon going down his throat, in a moment, as it were, petrified him, and made him stand like a statue, his eyes staring, and exhibiting symptoms of being inwardly convulsed. The truth is, the poor man completely lost some of his faculties, and it was a considerable time before he recovered at all from the shock.

There are two professors here, who, perhaps, act improperly, in their way of communicating their sentiments on philosophical subjects. The one, understanding his subject perfectly himself, and imagining that his pupils can follow the thread of his reasoning as fast as ever he can spin it out, hurries on from one thing to another, without giving the young men time to understand him. The other, while his language is ungrammatical, and slovenly, to use a modern phrase, is perpetually *boaring* them with experiments, without explaining sufficiently the principles which such experiments are calculated to illustrate and explain. Boerhaave, and other Dutch and German philosophers, who lectured two or three weeks on an oyster-shell, are too minute, and might turn the attention of their pupils to more useful studies. It is possible to speculate or indulge in theory too much. But some of the professors, both at the Old Town and New Town Colleges here, like most German and Dutch philosophers, make their pupils a kind of *quack* philosophers, and acquainted with the way in which certain

experiments are made, without knowing almost any thing of the principles on which they depend. Lord Bacon, whose mode of philosophising was followed by Sir Isaac Newton, &c. recommended a careful investigation of the principles on which experiments depend.

I am sorry to say that liberality of spirit, which one might expect among an enlightened people, is not, upon all occasions, displayed at Aberdeen; and that the mechanical professions are not all equally respected. For instance, Mr. D. a genteel, well-dressed, and, at the same time, well-behaved shoemaker, being in easy circumstances, went to a public ball, having paid half-a-guinea for his ticket, like the others. As the shoemaker was elegantly dressed, and, perhaps, the handsomest and best looking man in the ball-room, some of the mushroom gentry thought proper to sneer at him; and, having laid their plan, one of them, who was a stocking manufacturer, went up to him in the middle of a dance, begging to be measured for a pair of boots, which he wished to be ready next morning, *exactly* at five o'clock. The shoemaker, observing his drift, and the approbation of a considerable part of the company, immediately desired him to hold out his foot, pulled out a pocket handkerchief, spread it on the floor, and with one knee on it measured the foot. Then, saying, you may depend on it the boots will be ready according to your order; and having ordered half-a-dozen pairs of silk stockings to be ready for him at the same hour, proceeded with the dance. The stocking manufacturer had the impoliteness, several times in the course of the evening,

to put Mr. D. in remembrance of the boots, who as often, with a bow, was informed he might depend on them, at the appointed hour. Having staid till near two next morning, when the dance broke up, Mr. D. who was unmarried, escorted home his partner, who was also young and handsome, and having waked half-a-dozen of his best workmen, had the boots made exactly to the size and fashion ordered, by five in the morning: then sending, and obliging the stocking manufacturer to rise, and try on his boots, which exactly fitted, Mr. D. ordered instant payment of five guineas for them, and threatened prosecution, as the stockings were not ready, according to promise.

I have not heard that Mr. D. has received any more insults, though he has frequently attended public meetings of the first people in the place. Indeed, in Scotland, till lately, the great body of the people were too apt to pay too much attention to certain professions and persons, because they were what they term born gentlemen, whereas the English, with juster sentiments, view men, not according to what they were, but what they are; and if they find a steady, honest man, and one on whom they can depend, they are apt to think well of him, and, I believe, would respect him, even though he had dropped from the moon.

Though the Aberdonians be remarkably hospitable at their own houses, they still keep up the old fashion of periodical clubs; and some of them meet together, like the common tradesmen of London, at a public-house every night. I was amused with a droll anecdote or two of these social men: Baillie

Burnet and Baillie Littlejohn. These two Baillies, who were dear friends, met every night in the week at a tavern, from which they seldom stirred till they could not get home without a contrivance. What first failed Baillie Littlejohn was his tongue; what failed first in Baillie Burnett, his legs. Baillie Littlejohn, therefore, about two or three in the morning, would take Baillie Burnett on his back: who, if it was necessary, as it sometimes was, could inquire at a watchman, or any one, the way home.

At a respectable house here I fell in with Mrs. F. a widow about fifty years of age, whose conversation pleased me much, as it was neither of the gloomy kind, nor marked with levity. Upon expressing my good opinon of the lady when she retired, the mistress of the house and her daughters smiled, but said nothing. Upon leaving the house, I asked the gentleman, who had introduced me to them, what the ladies meant by their silence when I mentioned Mrs. F. He then told me, that not a hundred miles from this, a clergyman had lived a bachelor, with a sister as his housekeeper, for more than thirty years; that this sister, having acquired some money, when near sixty, thought proper to marry, and leave him, in his old age, to keep house as he pleased; that being thus left to himself, he began to think seriously of matrimony, and went to Aberdeen to view the ladies there, of whose virtue and good sense he had heard much; that having seen Mrs. F. who was then bordering on forty, he fell in love with her; and, being tolerably good-looking, though old, and having netted nearly three thousand pounds, he soon gained her consent, and

married her; that having been married five years, without any children, he was, after that, disabled, and for two years confined to bed by a stroke of the palsy, and then died. No latter will having been found among his papers, the lady was left, as to money matters, nearly what she was when he married her, excepting an annuity of about thirty pounds from the ministers widows fund. Mr. F.'s friends thinking themselves sure of his property, were proceeding at Whitsunday, being about three months after his death, to the sale of his effects, when she prevented them, saying, she believed she had a right to dispose of them herself, as she perceived herself to be with child. The truth is, in about eleven months after the old man's death, this good lady brought forth a fine chopping boy, who is heir to all the old man's property; and she, of course, manager of it for him till he is of age. They who suspect Mrs. F.'s virtue on this occasion, forget that the law of Scotland, as well as that of England, allows a year and a day to women in such cases.

Notwithstanding that the rent of land in the neighbourhood of this city is so much higher than even in the neighbourhood of London, and gardening is much studied in Scotland, yet there is one improvement in gardening in England which I have not observed in Scotland, and that is, the sowing and raking in two different species of seeds in the same piece of ground at one and the same time. Thus, in England, particularly near London, when they sow onions, carrots, and the like, the gardeners never fail to sow radishes, or some hasty grow-

ing seeds, along with them; which radishes, &c. are generally full grown, and ready for the table by the time the carrot-seed leaves have well peeped through the ground. They do the same when they plant greens, cabbages, cauliflower, and the like. They know the value of ground too well not to sow radishes, or some hasty growing crop, between the rows, to be reaped before the cabbages require hoeing or much room.

In the interior of Aberdeenshire, not long ago, a certain nobleman, who, though not confined, had not too much prudence in his conduct, when the maid was lighting the parlour fire one morning, was standing behind the door with a large carpenter's axe in his hands, lifted up higher than his head, and in the attitude of fetching a stroke. His lordship having a wild-look, cried, "Make haste, girl, and light the fire, and then I will cut off your head." The young woman observing him, and hearing this, went slowly to the middle of the floor, and then, with a sudden spring, flew out of the room and the house, and then directly to her mother's, about half a mile distant, where, having immediately gone to bed, she died the next day.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

TRAVELS

IN

SCOTLAND,

BY AN

UNUSUAL ROUTE:

WITH

A TRIP

TO THE

ORKNEYS AND HEBRIDES.

CONTAINING

HINTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

IN

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

WITH CHARACTERS AND ANECDOTES.

EMBELLISHED WITH VIEWS OF STRIKING OBJECTS,

AND

A MAP, INCLUDING THE CALEDONIAN CANAL.

BY THE

REV. JAMES HALL, A. M.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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VOL. II.

From ABERDEEN to BANFF.

From Aberdeen, where I spent a week very pleasantly and experienced much civility and hospitality, as every stranger who is introduced to any respectable person in the place does, I crossed the Don, by a very fine bridge of one large arch, on my way to Peterhead.

The people in England, nay, even in the south of Scotland, have scarcely any conception of the astonishing improvements of late made in the roads, &c. &c. all around this thriving and really polished capital of the north of Scotland. The roads on the north side of Aberdeen are made in different directions, in some places to the extent of thirty miles, as well as on the south side of it, at the expense of, I believe, five shillings per yard. They are mettled with hard stones, broken down to about the bigness of hens eggs, nine inches deep, a sufficient breadth, and then covered with gravel. And what serves to point out the growing prosperity and enterprizing spirit of the gentlemen in this part of the country, is, that there is a canal almost parallel to one of the great lines of roads, already dug as far as the burgh of Inverary, by which means goods may be carried backward and forward to and from Aberdeen, near twenty miles either by land or water. The gentlemen and land proprietors of each parish advance money, in a certain proportion, to make

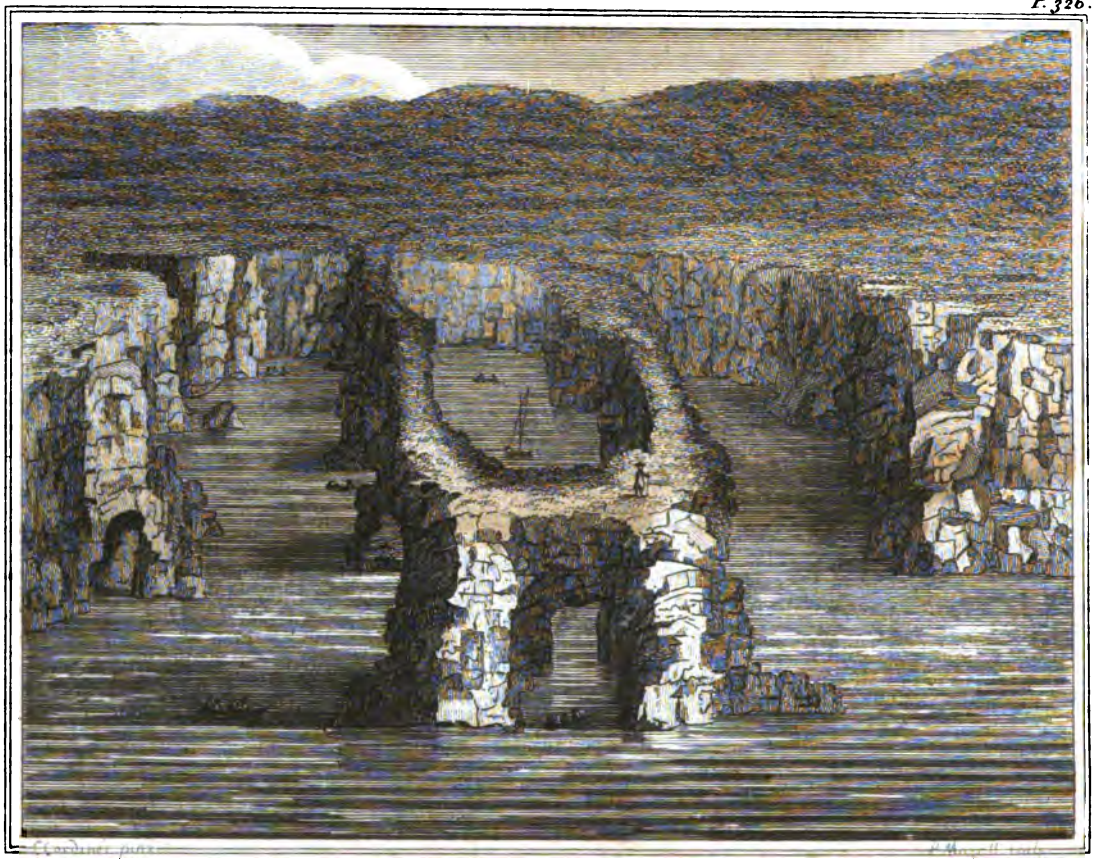
the road; and what they do not advance is borrowed on interest, which is paid by a toll levied at certain places.

Upon crossing the Ythan, a deep and dead river, stealing slowly through a good soil and a well-culti- country, I fell in with a fellow-traveller on horse- back, who accompanied me for some miles, and with whom I had a great deal of conversation. He told me of a late lord, who had kept a number of concubines, of whom fresh supplies were sent every year from London; and of a number of no- blemen's and gentlemen's seats, and great improve- ments in the country watered by the Ythan. I ask- ed him if there were any salmon in the Ythan. "O yes," said he, "but one of the proprietors on our side of the river was finely taken in about the salmon. About fifty years ago, as there was a pro- prietor on each side of the water, they held the pas- sage boat and the fishing in common between them. The rent of each was then about twelve pounds a year." One of the proprietors, more shrewd than the other, and beginning to observe the value of the fisheries, said to the other, "As we do not always agree about the rent of the boat and the fishing, if you will give me the whole power of letting the fishing, I will allow you to let the boat, in all time to come, to whom and at what you please." The agreement was made, and drawn up on this condi- tion; and the salmon fishing brings in now about five or six hundred a year, while the boat rent does not greatly exceed the old twelve pounds.

There is a fine view of the sea and sea-coast all the way from Aberdeen to Peterhead. In my way

thither I went to see Slane's Castle, and the famous Bullers of Buchan, in the vicinity of that noble and romantic mansion. Slane's Castle, the seat of the earl of Errol, is situated upon a peninsulated rock, almost perpendicular from the sea. In a storm, the waves actually dash upon its walls, and the spray is wafted by the winds over the tops of the house and offices into the gardens and adjacent fields. The present mansion is a very old and spacious edifice, forming a quadrangle in the middle. The antient castle is in ruins, having been demolished by king James VI. on the earl of Huntley's rebellion in 1594. For several miles to the north of Slane's Castle the sea-coast is formed by a border of high rocks indented with immense chasms, and here and there spacious caves. Near the house of Slanes are some rocks of a very striking appearance, on which thousands of birds build their nests. About two miles to the north, near the fishing village of Bowness, are the Bullers. These are great hollows in a rock projecting into the sea; through which rock, open at the top, you may see the roads, lying in a bason below, which forms, in bad weather, a good harbour. They are divided from the sea by a narrow and high rock, peforated by three grand archways, through which the water pours into the awful cavern an hundred yards in diameter, foaming, and in appearance boiling up with fury. The scenery around, of rock, water, sea-fowl, &c. is wildly grand.

I went also to see the *dropping cove*, or cave of Slanes. You enter this cave by a narrow mouth, when it grows wider and wider as you advance. The light of the candles carried with us was reflected



Butlers of Buchan

from the roof and sides of it with uncommon and peculiar beauty. I observed most of the petrifactions were white, or bluish, and of a calcareous nature. Petrifaction here, as in most other places, is a progressive work that requires some time. Some of the petrifactions I found only beginning, and, as it were, still in a fluid state; some of them soft as clay, and others hard as stone. The liquid oozing from the roof in a few minutes seems to be formed into a wheyish substance, then thicker and tougher; afterwards it can be carried like clay; and at last becomes so hard, that it must be broken with a hammer, or something of the kind, before it can be detached from the roofs where it hangs in some places like icicles. I found all the icicles of a calcarious nature; but the petrifactions in the sides and bottom of the cave were of a calcareous nature, mixed with *silica*.

Slaine's Castle stands in a beautifully romantic situation, but certainly too much exposed to the sea and winter storms.

How different the notions of men, and how varied their ideas of happiness! Two great men lately hired an elegant carriage at Aberdeen, and came to this part of the country to a house situated on the sea-shore. While they were at dinner, the servants informed them that the carriage was moving by the wind. Upon coming out, the gentlemen saw the carriage moved by the wind, and were informed, that, unless it was stopped, it would be blown into the sea. The wind still increasing, the servants begged leave to fix it, or carry the carriage to some other place, but were not permitted. At length the gen-

tlemen having seen the carriage *actually* blown over the rocks into the sea, declared, when they saw it driven by the wind, met by a tremendous wave, and dashed to pieces among the rocks, that they would not have wanted this noble sight, as they termed it, for a thousand guineas. They therefore went into the house highly delighted, and subscribed a handsome sum, which they supposed would be the price of the carriage. But one of the gentlemen failed before the money was paid, and the poor innkeeper at Aberdeen was obliged to put up with a certain proportion of the value of his carriage.

PETERHEAD.

This town, situated on the most easterly point of Scotland, which is the nearest land to the northern continent of Europe, as it lies within three hundred miles of the Naze of Norway. It contains about three thousand people. They have laid out on a new pier not less than seven thousand pounds. The harbour is divided into two parts, the south and the north harbour by the Inch, or island KEITH, near which is a fort, and a guard-house, with a battery of four twelve pounders and four eighteen pounders. They have twelve feet water at the pier head. The commerce here is very considerable to the Baltic and Dantzic. Upwards of twenty vessels are employed in this and the coasting trade, and three or four large sloops are annually sent to fish among the Hebrides, where they catch great quan-

tities of cod and ling, which they salt and sell to the indolent inhabitants of the western Highlands, whom it seems impossible to rouse to fishing or any regular industry.

More than two thousand barrels of cod and ling are sent annually to London.

At Peterhead there is a famous mineral spring, which they say is of great efficacy in distempers of the bowels, and operates as a very powerful diuretic. Whatever effect it may have upon others, it had none that I could perceive upon me. There is certainly no want of accommodation for strangers who resort thither in the season for drinking the waters. A good inn, ball room, salt water baths, elegant lodging-houses, &c. Bath itself is scarcely superior to Peterhead in this respect.

I am inclined to think that the people here would make much of such a spring as Pickethley Wells, the effects of whose waters are certainly not equivocal. The people of Aberdeenshire, it is alleged, are apt to vaunt very much of any thing belonging to their district; but this vanity is nearly allied to public spirit and true patriotism. If they boast of any natural advantages they possess, they are also disposed to make the most of them. I was sorry to see all along the coast of Buchan so little wood, and that what had been planted seemed very far from being in a thriving state. There must be something in the easterly winds different from the saline particles they contain, that proves injurious to trees. In Norway, Denmark, Sweden, &c. trees often grow at the very brink of the ocean. If trees grow thus in Norway, &c. and not in Buchan, there must be

some other cause than the saline particles in the air that prevents them. I was also sorry to find the proprietors not careful in adapting the plants to the soil; nor attending to this, that as alders, willows, and other aquatic plants, receive through their leaves and branches a very considerable degree of nutriment from the exhalations of moist soils as well as by the roots, so they ought to be planted in such.

The truth is, aquatic plants feed more by the branches than is generally imagined; and it is now found, that even if you plant a willow tree, or any wood of the kind, on the top of a pillar, with only earth to cover its roots, it will grow and be vigorous, so long as its branches overhang a pool or any kind of water. There is a species of wood, I understand, that grows within the sea-mark, even though its roots and branches be lashed by the waves of the sea; and some of it has lately been found to take root in the sands on the sea-coasts of Ireland. Why is not this matter inquired into, and tried in our northern climes? It is true, the wood of this plant is spongy, and not valuable, but what of that? If planted on the sands of Leith, the Links of Kirkaldy, St. Andrews, and along the coasts of Buchan, &c. &c. it would not only beautify the country, but prove a covert from the north and easterly winds to trees and other vegetables; and even if of no other use, it would save much expense in the article of fuel. The late minister of Frazersburgh, I could easily see, had done what could be done to ornament his glebe with wood, but did not succeed.

I pursued my route from Peterhead to Frazers-

burgh, situated on the promontory of Kinnaird's Head, which forms the entrance from the south into the Murray Frith, which is described not less justly than poetically by Buchanan, whose delineation of Scotland is a master-piece of geographical description. Having noticed the Spey and the Ness, and Murray between them, he says, that a vast bay of water chastises and repels the prominence of the land. *

Having viewed the light-house at Frazersburgh, with its excellent reflectors, and observed the growing progress of agriculture and the arts all along the coast of Buchan, I came to the estate of Troup, on my way to Banff.

Almost all the way from Peterhead to Banff, in antient times, the land must have projected much farther into the sea than at present; but the perpetual lashing of the waves, caused by the frequent north-easterly winds, has not only washed off the earth, but, in the course of ages, wasted and undermined the rocks, which are high here, making them in many places hang over the sea, and rendering it dangerous to sail near the coasts, on account of the huge masses of broken rocks that appear here and there above the surface, both at low and high water, all along the coast.

The estate of Troup, which is large and extensive, is in a high state of cultivation; but much of its value is, I find, owing to an accidental discovery. For many years, from outliers that appeared,

* Inter eos Amnes, Oceanus Germanicus velut retro in occidentem terram Agens sinu vasto ejus Laxitatem Castigat.—Buch. Rer. Scot. lib. i.

there was every reason to conclude there was lime on this estate, and the proprietor was at much pains, as well as expense, in trying to discover the rock. At length a mass of lime-stone was discovered, which gave universal joy to the proprietor and the country, as lime was much wanted here. Lime kilns, &c. were erected at much expense, and men set instantly to work to reduce the stones into lime; but the huge stone discovered was found to be only an outlier, or detached piece of lime-stone from some rock, which could not be found. The proprietor being disappointed and vexed, the kilns were suffered to go to decay, trials having been made for years in almost every corner of the estate in vain. However, after many years, a poor man one day, by a sudden stroke, found his plough broken by something hid in the ground. The poor man, vexed that his plough was broken, went to see what had done it, as no large stones had been found there before, and observed a piece of stone newly broken from a rock below, which seemed to be lime, and which he carried immediately to the laird, or land proprietor, that he might see it. The proprietor, finding it to be excellent lime, by its effervescing with aquafortis, oil of vitriol, &c. and that there were thousands of thousands of tons in the rock to which it belonged, advising the poor man to forget the misfortune of his plough, gave him a handsome present, and a snug little farm rent-free during life; this discovery of the poor man's being equal to some thousand pounds to the proprietor.

The great outlier, or large stone found by itself, which was lime, though there was nothing of the

kind near it, serves to shew, among thousands of thousands of similar facts, that there must, in some former period, have been some vast concussion of nature here. When we see huge stones by themselves on the surface and on the tops of mountains, as these did not grow there, we may rest assured they have been cast up in consequence of some volcano, earthquake, or uncommon operation of nature. There is, in the parish of Ordiguhill, a large outlier of lime stone some tons weight, and no lime-rock to be found near it. As this huge lime stone could not, by any operation of nature, grow there, where there is nothing but rough whin or granite stones all around, it must have come there some way or other. It could not come there by the hands of man, as the art of man, assisted with the most powerful engines, could not have moved it; therefore, being detached from some lime rock below, it must have come there by some uncommon effort of nature. At St. Andrews, at Red Head, between Aberbrothic and Montrose, at Slanes, and the Bullers, as well as almost all the way from Peterhead to the mouth of the Spey, the sea-coast is bold, and the rocks in some places, particularly at Troup Head, near a hundred feet high. All this I have seen, and it is well known that such is the case in a thousand places all over the globe. Now, this being so, and the sea at the foot of those rocks for the most part, as in Norway, very deep: the stupendous rocks, with the immense chasms in them that excite our wonder, must have been produced by some sudden and violent effort of nature, to give vent to subterraneous fire and volcanic matter. And those huge rocks on the tops of mountains on which the eagles

build their nests, were, no doubt, once in the bowels of the earth, and have been tost up there by the hand of Omnipotence for the wisest purposes.

At GAMERY, a few miles east from Banff, I found that three Danes' heads had been built in the church wall. The Roman senate offered its weight in gold for the head of Caius Gracchus, tribune of the people, because he rebelled against them, which, with lead that had been run into it, below the brains, by the slave that cut it off, in order to make it heavier, weighed seventeen pounds: but I am of opinion the Danes heads found here would each have outweighed the Roman tribune's, without the lead.

FORGUE.

The sands of Forgue, which are wide and extensive, were about a hundred years ago a fertile plain; but a wind having arisen from the east, and continuing some time, blew so much sand on this place, that though it sometimes shifts, and is here and there collected into a kind of heaps, yet I believe it is in general from fifteen to twenty feet deep over some thousand acres. At any rate, I saw the church, which has no roof, but is surrounded and filled with sand to the very eves. There are several thousand acres of sand of the same kind in Murray, particularly in the parish of Dyke, where a number of sand hills now cover that tract of land which was formerly the estate of Mr. Duff, of Culbin. It had been the custom to pull up the *bent*, a rough spiry grass, with uncommonly long and fibrous roots, near the shore, for litter for horses, by which means, the sand being loosened,

gave way to the violence of the sea and wind, which carried it over several hundred acres of land.—It is in the parish of Forgue that the religious and worthy Mr. M—l resides, whose daughter was married, in the manner above related, to the surgeon at Pickethley.

BAMFF

Has some foreign trade, and contains about three thousand inhabitants, who certainly do not lie under obligations to some of their magistrates. Two great men, that happened to live in the neighbourhood, like crows on an old horse, have picked the town to the very bones; and, for a mere trifle, bought up and inclosed with high walls almost every inch of ground that belonged to it. Nay, either so foolish, or self-interested, have the magistrates here been, that, not many years ago, they sold the salmon fishing of the river Deveron, which runs into the sea here, for less, I believe, than it brings in yearly.

The chief manufactures at Bamff are patent ribbed stockings, and white thread, which are shipped off for London, and various other places.

The town of Bamff, the capital of the county, is pleasantly situated at the side of a hill, and the mouth of the river Deveron. The harbour is but indifferent; being but small, and sometimes shut up by the shifting of sands after storms.

The situation of Bamffshire, on the Murray Firth, and the fine river Deveron, certainly invites to the most industrious cultivation; but how many territories, more highly favoured by nature, lie either waste

or display only squalid huts, half starved cattle, and here and there a slip of corn land, on the banks of rivers and streams. It is to the animating breath of two noblemen, highly distinguished for genius, judgement, and the most patriotic and enlarged views, that Bamffshire is indebted, for the exhibition of a scene little to be expected in so northerly a latitude. The first of these was the late earl of Findlater, who made very extensive plantations between Cullen and Bamff, and first introduced proper agriculture. He encouraged his farmers to build good houses, to improve their farms, and establish manufactures. His farms were not much above a hundred acres of arable land, which were let for three nineteens, or forty-seven years certain, besides, as it was expressed, a *life-time*. But the tenant was to name the life he fixed on at the beginning of the third nineteen years. If the person, whose life was fixed on, died before the expiration of the nineteen years, the lease was at an end. But if not, the lease was continued till the death of that person.

The second nobleman mentioned, as a fostering genius of Bamffshire, is the present James, earl of Fife. An account of his lordship's improvements would fill a volume; and many a volume has been written on a far less interesting and instructive subject. But an idea of the spirit and success with which his lordship pursues at once the improvement of his own vast territories, and the good of his country, may be formed from the following particulars.

Immense tracts of ground, which were a barren waste, have been converted, by his lordship, into

Town of Banff with Duff's House & the Bridge over the Deveron

Published [illegible]

arable land, or covered with woods. The very thinning of the woods planted by his lordship produce above a thousand pounds per annum. Of the estates which he possesses in the adjoining counties of Murray, Bamff, and Aberdeen, more than twelve thousand acres have in a few years been laid out in planting.

The town of Macduff is situated in the parish of Gamery, and county of Aberdeen, and lies on the sea shore, near a mile to the eastward of the mouth of the Deveron, one mile from Duff House, and the same distance from Bamff, on the opposite side of the river. In the year 1752 it consisted of only a few fishing huts; and from that time down to the year 1758, very few additions were made to it. The town, and a very extensive estate adjoining, belong to lord Fife; and within about a mile of Macduff, stands Duff House, his lordship's principal seat. About the year 1759, the present earl, then lord Macduff, obtained from his father, the late earl, the Duff House estate, on a part of which the town of Macduff stands. At this period, his spacious domains were nearly in a state of nature. The proper system of agriculture was there totally unknown. The culture of turnip and hay crops not practised. The black cattle and sheep, from poor winter keeping, were of a diminutive size, and of little value.

To remedy these defects, and to remove from the inhabitants strong prejudices in favour of antient usage, was the earl's first object; and he has certainly succeeded beyond the most sanguine hope. By introducing English husbandry, and new breeds of black cattle, sheep, and horses, the country is completely altered. Wheat, turnips, and hay, are

now raised in great abundance, many of the farms laid out in enclosed fields, and a proper rotation of cropping adopted; while the former hovels with turf walls, covered with thatch, are metamorphosed into stone houses, slated or tiled.

But while his lordship was thus successfully improving the soil, he wisely considered that commerce and agriculture ought to go hand in hand, and therefore bestowed much attention on the improvement and extension of the town of Macduff. The local situation affords one of the best sea-ports on the Murray Frith. He began by building a harbour, at the expense of 6000l. sterling, which has been the means of saving a great many lives, by affording shelter to ships in storms, when it was impossible for them to get into the neighbouring harbours. He then gave great encouragement to industrious mechanics and sea-faring people to settle in it. The town was laid out in a regular form. His lordship built, at his own expense, a church, and established a clergyman. For a small annual feu duty, ground sufficient for a garden, and the scite of a house, was allotted to each person, and in the immediate vicinity an acre or two of land, at a moderate rent. A few fishing huts have thus, by his lordship's creative genius, become regular well-built streets, inhabited by twelve hundred souls and upwards, in general, sober and industrious, comfortable and happy, under his lordship's protection. In times of scarcity they have been uniformly supplied with corn from his lordship's granaries, considerably under the market prices; and the inhabitants are well supplied with provisions of all kinds from the adjacent estates, and also with the greatest variety of fish, uncom-

monly cheap. Thus fostered, the population is increasing rapidly, and the trade in proportion. Twelve vessels, from 60 to 130 tons burthen, belong to the port, and more than double that number already resort to it annually. The harbour dues are extremely low: in 1788 they amounted only to ten pounds; but, though the rate still continues the same, such is the rapid increase of trade, that, in 1802, they amounted to more than 50l. For several years past, from thirty to forty cargoes of English lime have been landed at the port, almost solely used by the farmers as manure, in addition to the lime manufactured in the country. An equal number of cargoes of coals have been landed, besides wood, iron, London and Leith goods.

The principal exports are salmon, white fish, both barrelled and dried, thread, kelp, butter, and grain; of which last article there has been sent from the port of Macduff, in the last year, to the value of from twenty to thirty thousand pounds.

Two thriving ship building companies are established in the town, a tan-work for the manufacture of leather, and a rope-work of considerable extent. There are a considerable number of weavers, who manufacture cloth, both for exportation and home consumption. The mechanics are blacksmiths, house carpenters, wheelwrights, cabinet-makers, shoe-makers, tailors, and coopers. There is a masons lodge, and three other public societies in the town, whose funds are in a prosperous state, and applied occasionally for the support of decayed members.

In the year 1782, his lordship obtained a crown charter, erecting Macduff into a royal borough, or

barony, with power to the inhabitants at large to chuse a provost, and other magistrates, and counsellors for the internal government and police of the town; and about the same time the antient cross of Macduff was rebuilt on an eminence at the west end of the town. The old prison having fallen to decay, his lordship, at his own expense, erected a new one last year, in the centre of the town. Over the apartments allotted to debtors and criminals are several apartments for public meetings. In the late war, almost all the male inhabitants, from the age of sixteen to sixty, enrolled themselves for the defence of the country; and sixty of the number were formed into a volunteer company, regularly trained to the use of small arms; and, in case of invasion, offered to march to any part of the island. Within a mile of the town, there is a celebrated mineral spring, called the Well of Tarlair, to which about a hundred of the gentry annually resort; and from the use of this water, and sea bathing, find great relief in various complaints.

Duff House is a most magnificent fabric, with a square tower at each end. The front is richly ornamented with carving. The rooms are small, but the best apartments elegantly furnished. In this house, there is one of the finest collections of portraits, perhaps, in the kingdom. The trees, shrubs, and walks about the house, are laid out with the most correct taste, and greatest elegance. All the neighbouring hills are covered with pine. The park, which is twenty miles round, contains a variety of game, such as deer, hares, pheasants, wood pigeons, &c. and was planted entirely by his lordship. Many

of the trees, however, are seven feet and a half in circumference, about three feet from the ground, and from fifty to sixty feet high.

Through the grounds, and near the house, there runs a beautiful river, the Deveron; over which there is an elegant bridge of nine arches, built by government.

The earl of Fife began to plant in 1756. The trees, which measure seven feet and a half, were planted the following year. They were taken out of a nursery when about two years old, and planted in a deep loamy soil, on the bank of the river Deveron. The largest trees in his lordship's plantations are silver firs, and larch. The ash, beech, and oaks, however, are very little inferior in dimension. In the management of his plantations, his lordship has been particularly attentive to the thinning of them, and keeping the fences in good repair, so as to prevent the encroachment of cattle, which, in the north of Scotland, has hitherto been much neglected. But the advantages of lord Fife's management having become evident, his example has been happily followed by others. Among these, the greatest planter is the earl of Murray, who, I understand, has planted as great, or a greater number of acres than even the earl of Fife. Lord Fife has planted with forest trees above twelve thousand standard Scotch acres. By his judicious economy, on the most exposed moors, and where the soil is extremely thin, oaks and other forest trees grow luxuriantly. In thinning the woods, the worst trees are always cut down, and the best preserved.

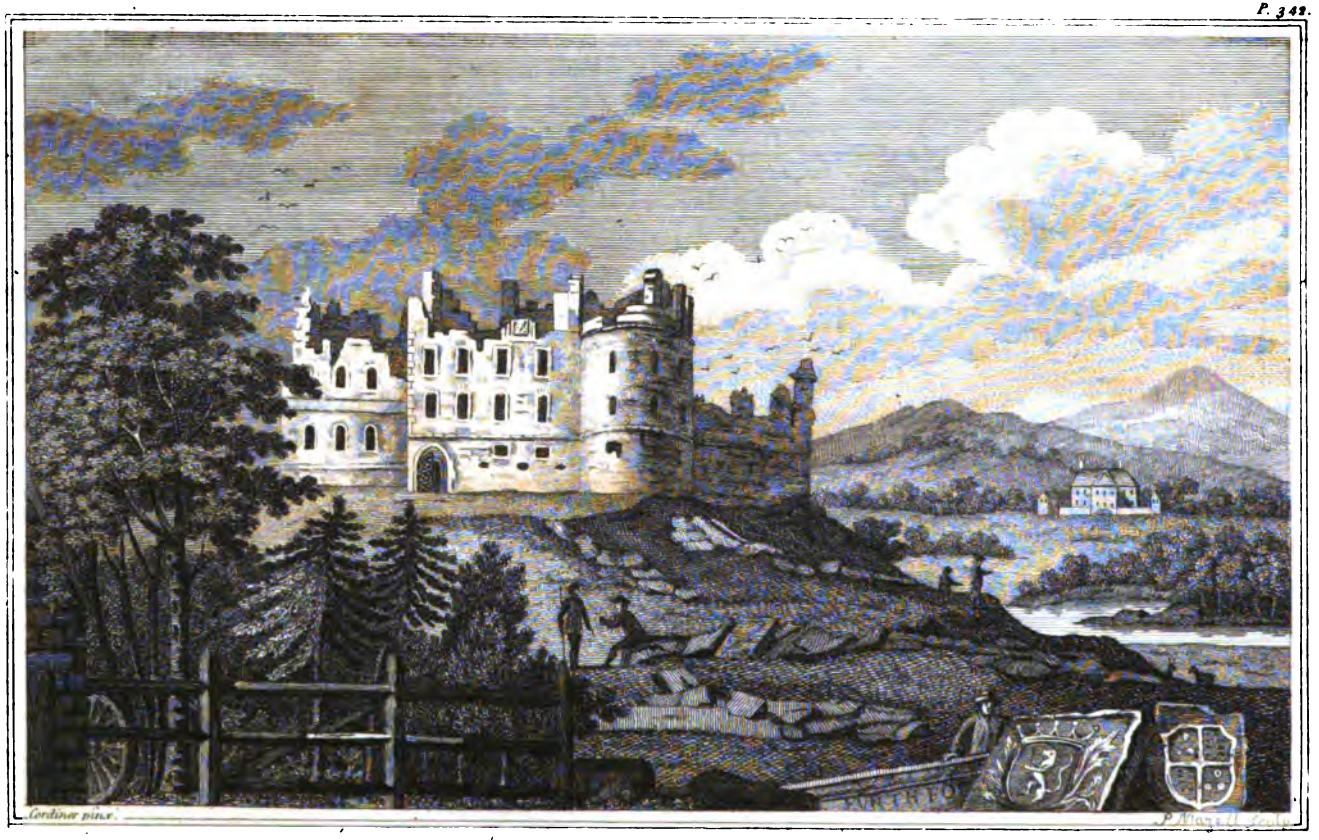
In most of the moors, a great many firs are planted, and are always cut down, in order to make room for other forest trees. If large, they are sold by mea-

sure; if small, by lots. It is a fact, and may tend to encourage planters in similar situations, that when the earl of Fife first began his plantations at Duff House, there never had been a tree, from an idea that trees would not grow, on that coast, so near the sea. His lordship has now, however, the satisfaction to see every kind of forest trees, even on the highest grounds, in the most prosperous state.

Lord Fife, in spite of the enormous weight of taxes levied upon houses, under the denomination of window lights, property tax, male and female servants, &c. still preserves seven different establishments, which are an ornament to the country; namely, Duff House, Dalgety Castle, Balveny Castle, Innes House, Rothemay, Marr Lodge, and Fife House, at London.

Dalgety is a fine old castle, built in 1550, seven miles from Duff House, in the parish of Turiff. The thriving manufacturing village of Turiff is situated near this, and about three miles from the Deveron, which divides the county of Aberdeen from Bamff. At Dalgety Castle, there is a fine natural wood, as well as very extensive plantations; and the country around it is greatly improved. Balveny Castle is situated on the banks of the river Tiddach, which falls into the Spey about three miles below the castle. It is surrounded with fine old wood. The old castle is a very fine ruin. The present castle, which is a very magnificent and commodious mansion, was built by the late lord Fife. In the woods and hills around it there is plenty of all kinds of game.

Innes House is situated in the county of Murray, within five miles of the river Spey, about three from the town of Elgin, and three from the mouth of the



Gardiner pinx.

P. Angell Sculp.

Balvenny Castle.

Mar Lodge, Hunting Seat of the Earl of Fife.

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Lossie, which runs past Elgin. It is here that we find the most extensive of all lord Fife's plantations. It covers five thousand acres, and is in a very thriving condition. The land on the west side of Elgin is excellent soil, and all the farms belonging to lord Fife in excellent order. There is an extensive natural oak wood here, which is an uncommon thing in this part of the country. Lord Fife's plantations are carried on for about four miles on the road to Forres. Rothemay, situated on the Deveron, is a very good old house, and the natural scenery around it beautiful. There is here an extensive natural wood, and very large plantations. The farms, and country round, is under excellent cultivation.

Marr Lodge is situated on the banks of the river Dee, about thirty miles from the sea, which it joins at Aberdeen. The river takes its rise from a spring about twenty miles above Marr Lodge. The house is placed on a beautiful plain, surrounded with large mountains, covered with wood. At some distance from the house, on a commanding situation, is a small tower; and at another place on the brow of the mountain behind, a gothic chapel; and at another, a fine obelisk; all built of stone. The small chapel is inhabited by the forester. The forest, in extent, is not less than twenty-five miles square. It is bounded by the counties of Bamff, Inverness, and Perth. It contains abundance of deer, and all kinds of game, as hares, badgers, &c. Foxes also are in great plenty, and in the winter season, when the snow is deep, very destructive to the roe-deer.

The different waters that flow through the different

woods, are as clear as chrystal. There are many beautiful cascades in this forest. Of a great variety of different kinds of trees there are some more than eighteen feet in circumference.

The river abounds in fish of different kinds, salmon, trout, pike, &c.

Of birds, Marr forest has all the species known to the most inland and elevated parts of Scotland: eagles, falcons, kites, ravens, ptarmigans, moor-fowl, or grous, the black cock, or cock of the wood, called by the natives *coper calzie*, &c. &c.

The eagles inhabiting, and as it were reigning in the rocks, or the sides of the mountains, are exceedingly numerous, and very troublesome neighbours. When they are in want of food for their young, they not only destroy great quantities of grous, and wood-pigeons, and other gregarious or harmless birds, but will carry off to their nests, lambs, and young or little dogs. The rocks and mountains of this elevated region are uncommonly stupendous and grand.

It is no wonder that the earl of Fife, possessing such various and vast tracts of land, should take delight in improving them, and promoting the general prosperity of Scotland—or that for its defence he should have raised and equipped two regiments. By the general and unremitted pursuits of such great landed proprietors, in Scotland and in *Ireland*, turbulence, idleness, and barbarism, would give way to order, industry, and civilization. Were gentlemen to live at home, and improve the country; were they to exempt their tenants from slavery, and other-

wise encourage them, the most barren land would soon satisfy every natural want; and become

Terra suis contenta, nec indiga mercis.

But luxury and vanity are boundless as the ocean. And many great men, being under the dominion of these, grind the faces of the poor, yet do not enrich themselves. They multiply exactions on the people, who dare not to complain, and exhaust their own fortunes, by imitating the manners and the luxury of their more wealthy neighbours.

The earl of Fife is not accounted a disinterested and generous man; but equally shrewd, politic, and selfish: though I never heard that he was disobedient to the calls of either justice or honour. But it is only by such steady exertions as those of lord Fife, springing from the motives of private interest or ambition, that the prosperity of a country, to any great or considerable extent, is to be promoted. Subscriptions to useful or humane projects, generally vanish into salaries and other advantages to those who set them on foot, and are entrusted with the management of them. It is only by individual interests, passions, and exertions, that a country is to be improved to the extent of its improvability, or indeed to any extent at all considerable. In the constitution of individuals again, social and benevolent sentiments are fortified by the best interests of self-love.

It appears that lord Fife can wind the Baillies, of Bamff, about his finger, when he pleases: yet he does not hesitate to amuse himself at their expense, on

occasions. When any one chances to meet his lordship in his walks about Bamff, and makes haste to take off his bonnet,—"Put on your bonnet, Donald, says his lordship, I am not a Baillie of Bamff." Donald might perhaps be put in prison if he did not pull off his bonnet before a Baillie.

When lord Fife returns, as he does annually, from London to Duff House, which the Bamff people consider as belonging to their town, he is frequently asked the question, "When did your lordship come to town?" Answer, "I have just come from town."

In the course of my peregrinations in the neighbourhood of Bamff, I went, one day, to dine with the good old parson of Fordyce, and found him in rather bad humour with his wife. This clergyman, who was well informed, and particularly fond of natural history, had tried several experiments, and found that, if a little salt is put about the root of any plant, it does good; but, if above a certain proportion, it always does harm. His wife had seen him, summer after summer, in his garden, &c. trying experiments of this kind with cabbages, gooseberry bushes, trees, &c. and was satisfied of the truth of it. Being fond of planting, and having a large glebe, soon after he was appointed to his living, this clergyman planted a variety of trees in his glebe, several of which, when they grew up, and began to spread, obscured much a weaver's windows, and prevented him from seeing so early and late as he otherwise would have done, these being planted on the side of the fence which divided the glebe from his property. The weaver often complained to the clergyman, that one of these trees particularly ob-

scured his light, and overshaddowed his house; and, also, that several of them considerably injured his garden, begging that he would either cut them down; or, upon being paid their value, lop off some of their branches. The clergyman, as did all the neighbours, saw the injury that these trees did the weaver; however, he was so madly fond of trees, and of these in particular, as he had planted, pruned, and trained them, when young, with his own hand, that he could not be prevailed on to cut them down; and he several times hinted to the weaver, that, if he, or any other injured these, he would have them punished as the law directs. As the roots of these trees came through, below the wall, into the weaver's garden, he frequently cut them; however, this did not prevent the trees from growing. At length the parson's wife, to whom the weaver had often complained, whispered to him; "As it is the spring, and you are digging your garden, find out some stems of the root of the tree most inconvenient, which comes under the wall into your garden; and put a plate full or two of salt about them on your side of the wall, and the tree will decay, but do not tell the parson, nor any body." The weaver did so; as also poured plenty of salt brine, in the night time, all about the tree, and about May, when the other trees began to bud, the tree before the weaver's window, though the parson could see nothing wrong about it, did not put forth any leaves; not even when June arrived. As the poor weaver had more than once cursed the tree; even in the parson's hearing; and wished that the devil would take it, since no other would, the people, and even the parson's

wife, began to hint that the weaver's curse had lighted upon it. The parson smiled, and said, "It is only a blight, it may do well enough next season."

The weaver's tree, as it was called, continued naked and brown all summer, and was sometimes on Sunday more attended to than the parson's preaching. At length, next spring and summer, with a third and a fourth having arrived, and no leaves appearing, the parson cut it down. His wife then told him what she had done, and it was this circumstance, it seems, that made him, though he sometimes smiled, a little angry with her.

FROM BAMFF TO FOCHABERS.

FROM Bamff to Cullen, which is about fifteen miles, all along the coast, the country is well improved, and the farms in general as neatly and substantially enclosed as any where in Scotland or Britain. The greater part of this district belongs to the earl of Finlater. The tenants, in their leases, are generally bound to enclose the arable ground; and contiguous tenants, finding it for their advantage, generally run a *straight*, as they term it, and a sufficient fence between their farms at their joint expense. They are perfectly acquainted with the nature of green crops here, and the proper routine of crops suitable to each soil. Green crops, they know, are not only useful for winter feeding, but also for cleaning and ameliorating the ground; and they are, in general, as well acquainted with the experiments made by the duke of Bedford, at Woóburn, &c. and Dr. Coventry's Lectures on Agriculture at Edinburgh, as it is possible for people to be by communications on paper.

At the Boyne, an old castle, romantically situated a few miles west from Bamff, and all along this coast there are to be found beautiful specimens of marble. Nay, in such plenty is it here, that Louis XIV. of France, when building a palace at Versailles, intended to ornament it with marble from this place; and, so pleased was he with the specimens he saw of it, that he would have actually done it, had not Mr. Gordon, the proprietor,

told his majesty, who asked how much he could spare? that he could send him as much as could build a city. "Then," replied Louis, "though extremely beautiful, it is too plentiful for my purpose."

Some years ago, a small ship from the Orkneys, in the midst of a tremendous storm, was driven among the rocks on the coast here, and dashed to pieces. Among the people on board there was a beautiful young girl, a clergyman's daughter, who had been put on board by her father on her way to Edinburgh, to learn to be a mantua maker, and then to return to the Orkneys to gain her bread in that way. When the ship went to pieces, this beautiful young woman some how got hold of a rock, and climbing upon it, sat there shivering with cold, having been several times over head in water, till some assistance was sent her by those who observed her situation. When brought on shore she was speechless. However, being put to bed, a surgeon sent for, and every attention paid to her that humanity could dictate, in a few days she began to step about, and at length to think of proceeding to Edinburgh: but she did not know how, as she had neither money nor clothes for the journey. Her innocence, her beauty, and above all, her amiable and prudent deportment, had already gained the heart of the young man who attended her as surgeon; and when she was consulting with him about proceeding to Edinburgh, he said, taking her by the hand, "How would it suit you to stay and be my wife?" Immediately the tear started in her eye. She was attached to him from the unremitting attention

he had paid to her; and, being a handsome young man, and in excellent business, she blushed consent. They were married without delay; and the same letter informed her father both of her good and bad fortune; as also, that all the lives on board were, though with difficulty, saved.

I was amazed to find, in traversing this part of the country, that though the established clergy are in general intelligent, and of liberal sentiments, yet, in some places, the repenting stool in their churches is not quite abolished. In former times, among the Roman Catholic clergy, when any person had gone over to the Reformers, before he could be admitted again into the bosom of the church, it was necessary for him to do penance, and sit on a peculiar seat in the church, called the repenting stool, for three Sundays following. The Reformers, though they rejected almost all the ceremonies of the church of Rome, good, bad, and indifferent, retained this; and obliged not only adulterers, but even fornicators, both the man and the woman, to appear publicly, and do penance before the congregation, in order to their being re-admitted into communion with the church. But the idea that this causes child murder, and that the Scottish women are the greatest infantirides in the world, has induced the greatest part of the clergy to lay this part of church discipline aside.

A storm having happened lately, I saw many of the farmers collecting the *alga marina*, or dilce, as they name it, which is thought a wholesome plant for children and others, and which is often gathered by poor people over all the sea coasts in

Scotland, and sold through the country. I observed them also collecting large sea-weed, the stems of which were as thick as an ordinary staff, and sometimes twelve feet long, that grow from the rocks at the bottom of the sea, near the edge. The saline particles attached to this weed fertilizes the ground, and gives grass a relish peculiarly grateful to cattle. As this may be called the spoils of the ocean, being torn from the rocks at the bottom, and cast ashore by the fury of the waves, how far it is proper in the proprietors to make their tenants pay for the liberty of using it, I do not pretend to know. This much I know, that the tenants here are often obliged to pay for the liberty to use and gather it.

PORTSOY.

Portsoy, about half way between Bamff and Cullen, is a little town, situated on a small promontory running into the sea. This place has not a little of both manufactures and commerce. Its principal exports are corn, thread for stockings, salmon, herrings, and white fish: its imports, flax, wine, wood, iron, and other articles, both for home consumption and foreign trade. There are also at Portsoy some salt-pans; but, I should suppose, the expense of coals, in conjunction with the heavy tax, must make the profits arising from making salt here very inconsiderable. When the duke of Cumberland passed through this village, in the spring of

1746, he proposed setting it on fire, as he had been informed the people in it were, to a man, attached to the Pretender. He, however, passed it without putting his resolutions in practice.

Not far from Cullen, a little to the eastward, there is a rock at the edge of the sea, that has been fortified by the Danes; and which, in those days, before the use of gunpowder was known, must have been impregnable.

Not far from this place, on a peninsulated rock, stands the old castle of Finlater. The massy ruins that cover the rock; the outer walls, particularly those fronting the sea, corresponding exactly with the face of the precipice, in the same manner as those of Cardinal Bealon's castle which I had seen, at St. Andrews; the strongly walled apartments; the walls and double ramparts that defended the isthmus on which the castle stood: these remains make a strong impression, and carry back the mind, as by force, to the times in which all this was necessary for protection.

Cullen House, the present mansion of the earls of Finlater, is situated on the edge of a glen. The plantations around it are very extensive. A bridge of one arch, of seventy feet in height, is thrown over the glen just by the house, at the bottom of which there runs a rapid stream. There is a fine library in Cullen House, enriched with many thousand volumes of books, well chosen, and in splendid order. The late earl of Finlater was a man of genius, learning, taste, and public spirit. He was better acquainted than any other nobleman with the inte-

rests of Scotland, and the best means for promoting them.

The people in England, who are unacquainted with this part of the country, and who may be prejudiced by Dr. Johnson's account of Scotland, have scarcely any conception how much the roads, and almost every thing, is improved here. Formerly the jolts in a carriage, from the roughness of the road, were, no doubt, extremely disagreeable; but now a London alderman, if he chooses to take a trip thus far, may loll at his ease in his carriage, as scarcely a stone is to be found on the road bigger than an egg.

At Cullen House, the seat of the earl of Finlater, there is one of the finest gardens in Britain. The hot house, I believe, cost his lordship not much less than antiently would have built a palace, and produces as fine pine-apples, grapes, &c. &c. as any in Britain; and the pleasure ground, next to lord Fife's, and that at Gordon Castle, is among the prettiest and most extensive in Scotland.

Besides the beautiful marbles and granites to be found in the lower parts of the county of Bamff, there are, on the top of a hill near Portsoy, and not far from Cullen, beautiful specimens of the chrystal stone almost transparent, and thousands of thousands of tons of a beautiful species of agate. There are great numbers of large stones on the top of this hill, as white as chalk, and as hard as flint, which are rolled down, put on shipboard, and being carried to the potteries about Newcastle, &c. are pounded, by mills for the purpose, to a powder, and then made into a thousand different kinds of

pottery, and sent to most parts of the world. As there are water-falls and room enough in the neighbourhood of this hill, why are not the stones pounded and formed into earthernware in the country where they are found?

At the fisher town of Cullen, I found on immense number of curs, which, it seems, like the dogs of Kamskatka, feed upon fish, and sometimes go themselves and catch crabs, lobsters, &c. among the rocks. Upon inquiring the reason of their having so many dogs, I was told they breed them for their skins, which being sewed and blown up like bladders, are fixed by the fishers to their lines, with hooks, to prevent them from sinking. And this is not an unnatural idea: for it is well known that the skins of dogs, and all the canine species, are less porous than others. Hence, as they do not perspire, but their perspiration comes off by foam at the mouth, which is very visible when they are warm, so they are more apt to go mad and be infected by the hydrophobia than any other animals. A clergyman from Aberdeenshire being bit by one of these curs, which he had reason to conclude was mad, instantly ran to the house, and having got a large sharp knife, cut out the flesh all around the wound, which happened to be the root of the thumb, and would not be prevented by those that saw him. The consequence was, the clergyman escaped the hydrophobia, though at that time many cattle died mad, and several people were infected with that dreadful distemper. Lap-dogs too are dangerous animals in this point of view.

I could not help observing how hard the poor people labour here to gain a subsistence. The mechanics at Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, London, Glasgow, &c. generally gain as much in three or four days as supports and keeps them drinking the rest of the week. It is otherwise here; for all kinds of clothing are generally dearer than in England and the great towns in Scotland, and the food they eat not much cheaper, while their wages is much inferior, though now growing better.

From Cullen to Fochabers, a distance of twelve miles, is a very fine country all the way, and the crops of wheat, barley, and oats, very strong and flourishing. On this road are a number of seats belonging chiefly to gentlemen of the name of Gordon.

FOCHABERS.

The old town of Fochabers is an assemblage of miserable huts: but in the new town there are several good houses and two tolerable inns. At this place there is an establishment for making sewing thread, in which about fifty girls are employed, under the patronage of the duchess of Gordon.

As I passed through the Enzie,* on my way to Fochabers, I fell in with a number of people, though not on a Sunday, seemingly going to church. Having put up my horse, I followed them to the end of their march, wherever or whatever it might be. It was a Roman Catholic chapel, and I believe the

* A district so called. Of this district, I suppose, the clan Mackenzie were the Aborigines.

most numerously attended of any in Scotland. When I entered, I saw five or six hundred people all devoutly kneeling, it being Whitsuntide. There is an elegant painting of St. Gregory over the altar, I believe valued by the cognoscenti at some hundred guineas. The family of Gordon, in this neighbourhood, being long attached to the Roman Catholic persuasion, after the reformation took place in Scotland, is the reason why this, in the language of the canters, is the greatest nest of the Roman Catholics in Scotland. I have seen the Portuguese ambassadors, and several other of the best Roman Catholic chapels in London; but this, which will, I understand, accommodate fifteen hundred persons, seems to exceed any of them in size, and several of them, particularly in the invalid room, in neatness and convenience. Upon inquiring how the people here could raise money to build so large a house, I was informed, that though they were certain it did not drop from the clouds, yet the managers of this chapel frequently, while it was building, received money from unknown hands, particularly a hundred pounds one morning, without ever being able to trace from whence it came. This, with a variety of anecdotes respecting the nunnery at Winchester, and that at Hammersmith, in the neighbourhood of London, tends to shew, that though, on account of the penal statutes, they did not shew it, many were attached to the Roman Catholic persuasion.

In a large square stone in the front of this chapel, in large capital letters, is the word DEO. As these letters call up the idea of God, the most sublime that can enter the mind of man, I was surprised to

see the word jostled as it is from the centre of the stone, and the mind withdrawn from the sublime idea suggested by it to the insignificant circumstance of 1781, the year, it seems, in which the chapel was built. True criticism requires that the mind should not be drawn away from the contemplation of sublime ideas by insignificant circumstances. If the year in which the chapel was built must be put up, this is not the place. I am surprised this did not strike the Roman Catholic clergy in this part of the country, whom I found in general, as well as Peter Gordon, esq. of Aberlour, one of their supporters, to be polite and intelligent.

Though, as a Protestant, I believe the seat of devotion to be the heart, yet while in this chapel, as well as in every other place of public worship, I complied as far as I could with the ceremonies of their church; since, whatever the articles of their faith may be, I know Roman Catholics whom I believe to be as good Christians, and as fit for the kingdom of heaven, if I may use the expression, as those who are denominated Protestants. And fortunately, with the well-informed, the question now is not so much of what sect or denomination of Christianity, such and such an one is, as if he be a truly good man.

Gordon Castle, the seat of the duke of Gordon, which has, perhaps, the most extensive and splendid fronts of any house in Britain, is situate at Fochabers, on the banks of the Spey, not far from the place where that river runs into the sea. The plantations and pleasure grounds round this noble mansion are beautiful in the extreme, and serve to

shew what industry can do in the midst of muirs and mountains.

The north-east front is regular. The south-west front has a square tower in the middle, which rises considerably above the top of the house. The wings are new and very elegant. The higher parts of the building, towering amidst the fine old trees in the park, which have been planted in rows and avenues, present to all the country round an image of magnificence. The walks or pleasure-grounds are beautiful, various, and extensive. The hills above the house are all planted with fir.

Near this place, and where the duke of Cumberland crossed the Spey, the most rapid river in Scotland, to attack the rebels at Culloden, in the year 1746, has been lately built a splendid bridge, which I believe cost about twenty thousand pounds, and adds much to the convenience, not only of the people of this part of the country, but to the community at large.

The salmon fishery here, which, as the land on each side of the river belongs to the duke of Gordon, is solely his grace's property. The salmon are, in general, boiled and picked, and sent off for the London market. Messrs. Robinson and Co. of the Tay, and Mr. James Gordon, of Portsoy, formerly rented this fishery at the yearly rent of fifteen hundred pounds; but it has been since held on lease at the yearly rent of five thousand.

What makes the fishery so valuable here, and at the mouth of most rivers in Scotland, is, that by a

decision of the supreme court in Scotland, and agreeably to the opinion of the first lawyers in England, the proprietors of land on the banks of rivers at their entrance into the sea have a right to put nets, cruives, or any kind of trap they please, completely across the river, except a few feet in the middle, so as to prevent any salmon going past their own territories; with this single exception, that during Sunday they are not at liberty directly or indirectly to prevent the fish from going up, and must leave a given space in the middle of the river for allowing them, if they please, to proceed upwards. In consequence, salmon are, sometimes, found at the source of the Spey, which is a hundred miles up the country, and not far from Fort Augustus, on the great Caledonian canal.

At a certain town between Buchanness and the Spey, famous for gaiety, and an imitation of the manners and style of living of the great, learning that there was to be a ball, I felt, as nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see my fellow-creatures happy, a strong desire to see it. Knowing the power of a silver key, which I take care always to carry about with me, I went in the evening, and putting something quietly into the door-keeper's hand, found easy admittance. Though I expected to see nobody I knew, I was scarcely seated, when a well-informed gentleman, to whom I was known, came up and accosted me. Glad to find a friend, where I scarcely expected to see a single acquaintance, I asked, in a whisper, "Pray what are these dashing ladies near the head of the dance, with the red and green ostrich feathers."—

" Tush," said he, taking me by the arm, " let us retire into this corner, and I will tell you.

" The lady with the large green ostrich feather was lately a dashing Irish widow. The squire, her husband, nearly opposite to her, dressed in scarlet, was taken in by her. Her brother-in-law, a baronet, in whose house she lived, represented her to the squire, who was then in the army, as a lady not only of high accomplishments and respectable connections, but also of a large fortune, and swore to the truth of what he said. The squire was enchanted, and married her without delay. He, however, found that his widow had scarcely any thing but a handsome external appearance. When he brought her to his estate in Scotland she seemed never happy, as was unluckily the case with himself, except when the house was full of company, or she was abroad in quest of amusement. She advised her husband, though he had not money to spare, to scoop out about two acres of land before the house to make an artificial lake, the water being also partly dammed up by an expensive wall, as also to build barges, and have watermen in uniform, with painted oars, like those on the Thames on a lord-mayor's day. When all this was done, the barges, the oars, the watermen, the uniforms, &c. &c. prepared, as also a splendid company invited, and an elegant dinner prepared, behold a flood came, destroyed the dam head, carried off the boats, and left, as formerly, only a small pond, which the ducks and geese immediately took possession of, though their numbers had become much fewer, and that they were almost reduced to

nothing, in consequence of the late continual feasting. The estate, which has been since sold, and brought fifty thousand pounds, is found scarcely enough to pay the debts of this young and extravagant pair. Fortunately they have got another estate.

With regard to the lady who has the red feather: having been married, though she had not a shilling, to an old English squire, who died soon after he married her, she enjoys a jointure of eight hundred pounds a year. Soon after his death, she went to Bath on the look out, as was natural. Her husband, who is nearly opposite to her, having returned from seeing an uncle at Rome, and almost without a shilling in his pocket, went to Bath to try his fortune; and although then near forty, and she not much above twenty years of age, in consequence of a tolerable talent for mimickry, and singing some scraps of Italian and French songs, he had prepared for this occasion, he picked up this young and handsome widow. I must not omit to mention also, that he has a son and daughter by a former wife. Having persuaded her to sell her annuity, here they are, and what is to come of them I know not.

As to the old stout gentleman you see hobbling through the dance, he is a Scotch baronet, who, having spent the most of his patrimonial estate, went to Bath on the ruins of it, in quest of a fortune, where he remained many years, but did not succeed. When young, he refused an handsome lady there worth thirty thousand pounds, hoping to obtain one worth more. When a little older, he had almost agreed with one who had twenty thousand,

but a younger candidate for the lady's affections from Ireland succeeded in carrying her off. The remains of his own fortune being at length completely gone, he lived there on the bounty of a friend, and was at length so reduced, that he would have married *any* woman whatever, if she had had even a hundred or two a year; but being now old, he has left Bath, lost hopes, and, to prevent him being a burthen on his friends, they have got him appointed an officer in the militia.

As to the young couple you see at the foot of the dance, their history is astonishing. The man married about a dozen years ago, being then a journeyman mechanic, and had not a shilling in his pocket, and the clothes on his back unpaid. He has succeeded in life, however, as a shopkeeper and merchant; and now that he is rich, and has become a man of landed property, he, his wife, his eldest son and daughter, having all gone together to the dancing school to learn to dance, made some improvement, and been applauded at dancing-school balls, here they are: and, on account of the nimbleness of their feet, &c. I have no doubt but they will find attention paid to them.

That beautiful young lady you see with the elegant turban is Miss G. of P. Her father, a baronet, succeeded to a handsome estate, being heir of entail. As the baronet had a son, a fine promising lad, he sold his paternal estate, which this young lady might have inherited, and which brought near ten thousand pounds, to build an elegant house, and otherwise improve his newly-acquired entailed property; but alas! after this ten thousand pounds

was nearly expended in draining, enclosing, and otherwise improving the surface of this estate, her father and brother died; and, by the laws of entail, the estate, with her money scattered on the surface of it, has gone to the heir-at-law, an old man, without any children, and who is scarcely any other way connected with her father's family than all the Hottentots and the sons of Adam are.

Now this ball and these anecdotes are not introduced here with any great precision, according to what may be called local or geographical order, the natural band of connection in tours or travels. A violation of this law I doubt not but my reader will, for obvious reasons, in the present instance excuse.

And now having arrived at the banks of the Spey, where I formerly passed seven years, in the course which I made many excursions to different places, I shall proceed to describe or relate some matters of fact, without troubling my reader in every instance with the circumstance of time, or the particular spots from whence I set out to another.

KEITH.

In my way to Huntley Lodge, an old castle and hunting seat, belonging to the duke of Gordon, and which, in feudal times, was taken by his grace's ancestors from the Cummins, *vi et armis*, I halted at New Keith, an inland thriving village, nearly in the middle of Bamffshire, where the bleaching business is carried on to a considerable extent, and linens

of various fabrics are manufactured and sent off for the London market. This village, which is large, regular, and well built, owes its prosperity to the liberal and enlarged views, and fostering genius of the late, and great James, earl of Findlater. It was erected by his lordship in 1750, upon a barren moor, and feued out in lots. There is a wonderful charm in perpetual possession. It now contains about fifteen hundred souls.

While here, I saw a number of people collected in the streets, as if some accident had happened. Upon inquiry, I found it was occasioned by a woman having gone three different times to doctor Dougall, to have a tooth drawn; and as often run out of his house, her tooth-ach going away whenever she saw him come with his instruments to pull it out. Though an extremely good hearted man, and always glad when he had it in his power to do good, he was so irritated, when he saw her running out a fourth time, that, holloing after her, and ordering her to be stopped, he followed her into the street; and, having, as it was dry, laid her down, there pulled out the tooth, and left her, with half a crown, to a person to take care of her.

At the inn here, I fell in with a genteel looking young man, seemingly a good deal dejected. This young man, who was from the north of England, having seen, at a boarding school in Yorkshire, a young lady, from the West Indies, said to have a handsome fortune, though a little tinged with the colour of the Africans, married her; and took home to his house also a younger sister, whose education was also finished, as the money paid to the boarding

mistress, he thought, would do as well in his pocket as hers. Having wrote and re-wrote to the West Indies, for the annuity due to his wife, and her sister, and received no answer, he set sail for the West Indies; but before he reached that part of the world, the gentleman in whose hands his wife's fortune was invested, had set out for London. The young man, therefore, followed him. When he arrived at London, the gentleman had indeed come there, but was gone to Scotland. The young man whom I saw here, had come to this part of Scotland, but found it *impossible* to recover any of his wife's fortune, nay, not even what would pay his travelling expenses, and was thus far on his way to his, no doubt, disconsolate wife, and his sister-in-law, whom he had left without a shilling.

By the side of the river that runs by the bleachfield at Keith, where vast quantities of linen are whitened, not by muriatic acids, as is too often done, I met a gentleman with a fishing-rod in his hand, whose name is J—n. Having been introduced to him, and accepted an invitation to dine with him, I found a good dinner, excellent wine, and what I most wished for, a vast variety of miscellaneous information; though mixed with great eccentricity and extravagance of sentiment, on some particular points. For several years, Mr. J—n had been an officer on board a xebeck, or Turkish ship, in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, &c. and, during that time had become attached to the Mahometan mode of worship. He told us plainly, for a clergyman of the church of Rome dined with us, that he totally disbelieved the Christian religion;

and, when speaking of the established clergy, he said, "They are nothing but a set of liars, appointed by government, at nearly equal distances, up and down the country, to tell the people lies on Sunday, respecting religion and the government." Nay, he went so far as to say, that he wished the devil would blow in the air every church in the kingdom, out at the very foundation. As to his political principles, though he had been many years an officer in the British navy, they were of the levelling kind; and he did not like Mr. Pitt. He prophesied of him, that he would not live long, and told us that before the late tax was laid upon sugar, Mr. Pitt had bought up several tons of it, to sweeten his and the devil's coffee in the other world. I saw on a bye table, an elegant copy of the Koran, or Turkish Bible, in three volumes, large octavo, of which he told us he read a chapter every morning and evening. After hearing him some time, I began to think him deranged; but, upon consideration, found that he spoke rationally on every subject; except religion, and the British government; which he certainly hates, though he has a handsome annuity as a superannuate sea officer. When the clergyman that dined with us found fault with him for using the name of God once or twice irreverently, in the course of conversation, he bowed, and made an apology: however, the clergyman having somehow lost his gloves, and expressing much anxiety about them, added, God only knows where they are. Mr. J—n, looking at him, said, with a significant tone, do you think God has nothing to do but look after your gloves? It is a most conspicuous proof and example, how much the

understanding of men are under the influence of their wills, or passions, that a man should be found, who gives up the religion of Jesus Christ for that of Mahomet.

HUNTLEY.

It is situated on the banks of the Bogie, a river celebrated so far back as the days of Charles II. for its banks being covered with white linen cloth, and its waters for a peculiar quality, favourable to bleaching. It is a tolerably thriving inland village, about twenty miles from the sea, containing from two to three thousand inhabitants, and has some manufactures, particularly of linen, which are sent to the London market. And here resides the marquis of Huntley, to whom the people of this country look up, and on whom Providence has conferred not only a good head, but an extremely good heart.

In this neighbourhood, on the side of a hill not far from the river, there is a millstone quarry of uncommonly hard grey granite. They put a long piece of wood through the centre of each millstone, and direct it down the hill till it comes to level ground; where it may be put on a carriage, and drawn by horses. One of these lately, being large and heavy, broke off from the men directing it on its edge, and acquired such velocity by the time it approached the foot of the hill, that it sprung over the river, though thirty feet broad, and ran a considerable way on the other side before it stopped.

I myself remember to have seen, what I may call

a very terrible march of a millstone, near Tillicoultry. A millstone being loosened, and pushed off by a number of herds, as they call them, fellows keeping cattle, came rolling, and bounding from the side of one of the Aichil Hills, to the bottom, where above five thousand people were hearing a tent-preacher, on a sacrament Sunday. The stone had acquired such velocity and force, by the time it approached the foot of the hill, where the people were sitting, that, as it came straight toward them, it would have killed some hundreds of them, had it not, as it were, by the interposition of providence, broke into pieces, which did no harm, when it was not above two hundred yards from the terrified multitude.

Necessity often leads both men and other animals to do what they otherwise would not. As I was, one day, amusing myself with the objects around me, on the road between Huntley and Portsoy, I observed two magpies hopping round a gooseberry bush in a small garden, near a poor-like house, in a peculiar manner, and flying out and into the bush. I stepped aside to see what they were doing, and found, from the poor man and his wife, that, as there are no trees all around for some miles, these magpies, for several years, built their nest, and brought forth their young in this bush. And, that foxes, cats, hawks, &c. might not interrupt them, they had barricadoed, not only their nest, but the bush all around, with briars and thorns, in a formidable manner; nay, so much so, that it would cost even a fox, cunning as he is, some days labour to get into the nest. The materials in the inside of the nest

were soft, warm and comfortable to the touch, but, all around on the outside, so rough, strong, and firmly entwined with the bush, that, without a hedge knife, hatch bill, or something of the kind, even a man could not, without much pain and trouble, get at their young; for, from the out to the inside of the nest, it was longer than my arm. Frogs, mice, worms, or any thing living, was what they brought their young. One day, one of the magpies having lighted on a rat, but not being able to kill it, one of the young ones came out of the nest to its mother and the rat, while they were fighting about the bush, and assisted in killing it; which they did not accomplish, till the father, arriving with a dead mouse, also lent his aid. The poor woman told me, that, of the two magpies, the mother was the most active and thievish. She was also very ungrateful; for, although the children about the house had often frightened cats, hawks, &c. from the nest, yet she one day seized a chicken, and carried it to the top of the house to eat it. But the chicken's mother flew up after the magpie; and, having rescued the chicken, took it in her nib; and, as it was not able to fly, brought it down in the same way as a cat carries her kittens in her mouth, taking its neck in her nib; and the poor chicken, though it made a great noise, while the magpie was carrying it up, was extremely quiet, and seemed to feel no pain while its mother was bringing it down. These magpies had been faithful to one another for several summers, and drove off their young, as well as every one else that attempted to take possession of their nest. This they carefully repaired, and barricadoed in the spring with rough,

strong, prickly sticks that they sometimes brought to it jointly, one at each end, pulling it along, when they were not able to lift it from the ground. I gave the poor people's children a shilling each, because they had not robbed nor disturbed the magpies.

The same poor people, having one year lost the mother of some chickens, the cock became their protector, took them under his wings in the night-time, and whenever it was cold, and continued this paternal care, notwithstanding that his wives often tried to seduce him from the chickens, to attend to themselves. Here too I was informed, a pigeon took care and fed the young himself; his wife, and the mother of the young ones having been seized and carried off by an insidious cat.—Who is not tempted to exclaim, with the philosopher, DEUS EST ANIMA BRUTORUM!

HILL OF NOTH.

My next route was to the top of Noth, a hill not far from Huntley, where they report there was once a volcano. I examined this place very minutely. Many of the stones around this hill, not only near the top, but all around its base to a considerable distance, appearing partly to have been in a state of fusion, no doubt serves to support this opinion; but I am rather inclined to think that these stones have assumed this appearance from having been built up in the form of a wall or rampart, and wood having been set on fire, piled up on each side of them, to smelt them, and make them run together,

and consequently to form a stronger fence and more durable than if built with the strongest cement. Some of the stones of this country evidently contain iron and ores of various kinds, and consequently by being put between fires, might easily be made to run together, and thus form a fence of stones run together, and capable of continuing in that state for thousands of years.

A few miles from Huntley I passed a rill, scarcely a foot deep, that conveys water to drive a mill. A cat, sunning herself, and purring one day by the side of this rill, seeing a salmon in it, leaped on its back; but not being able to pull it out, she continued crying in an uncommonly curious manner, and held it till a person ran to her assistance. The salmon, which weighed eight pounds, must have lost its way, being more than two miles from the water of Bogie, and thirty from the sea.

KILDRUMMIE CASTLE.

Between the rivers Dee and the Spey, at the foot of the Grampian Hills in Bræmar, is situate Kildrummie Castle, an old and extensive ruin, once the seat of the earl of Mar. It was in Kildrummie Castle, then deemed impregnable, that the heroic and great king Robert Bruce lodged his family, while he himself, with about two hundred followers, fled for safety after the unfortunate battle of Methven, near Perth, to the lakes and recesses of the Grampian mountains and the Western Islands. It is situated on a rising ground projecting into a deep glen.

Tabernacle Creek.

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It is of a pentagonal form, the angles defended by very strong and lofty towers, one of which is still fifty yards high. The court enclosed within this massy pentagon takes up an acre of ground.

Besides the impression made by the vast extent of the ruins, I was much struck with an arched way under ground more than a mile, by which, in antient times, when necessary, they could leave or enter this castle. I proceeded some yards in this subterraneous passage, but finding it wet and disagreeable, I returned.

In almost all parts of Scotland, if the people dislike the established clergyman of the parish, they find dissenters of various kinds ready to increase the dislike; but in some places the people are so thinly scattered, and so poor, that they are not able to support dissenters; and in others, the landholders neither will allow them to build places of meeting for dissenters, nor to attend such without incurring their displeasure. In such cases, when the patron appoints a minister that the people dislike, they must either go and hear him on Sunday, or stay at home, there being often no other place of public worship within a dozen or even twenty miles. Having no other place of public worship but the parish church, and not choosing to go there, a number of people in the upper part of the county of Bamff agreed to meet at a central house, and read Flavel's works. A dozen of them having met at the same hour with the parish church, they opened the book, which was a large folio, and looked at the frontispiece, a print of the author. Having done this, the master of the house proposed, that before they be-

gan to read, as it was cold, each of them should take a glass of spirits. As they were viewing the print a second time, another person arrived to hear the devotions of the day. The landlord moved that they should each have a second glass. This also being agreed to and drunk, they turned over the title page, and came to the epistle to the reader. Some proposed they should begin by reading this, others that it should be passed over. Some again proposed, as the bottle was on the table, that they should take another glass, and consider of it. So they did, and by the time public worship in the church was over, the people here were nearly all drunk, and not above a sentence of the book read.

I wished to get a view from some high mountain in this part of the country; but I found I was too far from the sea here, as I wished not only to see the country, but the ocean, from an elevated situation. I therefore directed my course northward, and came to Belrinnis, a high mountain on the banks of the Spey, about twenty miles from the Murray Firth, in Aberlour parish.

BELRINNIS.

It being a very fine day, immediately after breakfast, I set out to climb this high mountain, which is seen by mariners coming from the northern ocean before any other land; and which, by a barometer I carried with me, I found near three thousand feet above the level of the sea. But, though the day was extremely clear before I reached the top, I

found myself enveloped in a cloud, whence I could see any object distinctly only at a few yards distance. Perceiving a fine breeze as I was ascending, I hoped the cloud would disperse, and therefore, though I felt it extremely cold, and myself extremely hungry, having foolishly put nothing in my pocket, I resolved to remain there some time. But, to my astonishment, while I was stepping about to keep myself warm, on the top of the hill, I perceived something of an uncommon appearance through the mist at a distance. I approached it indeed, not without fear, and at length found it to be a phalanx of wedders, or sheep three years old, on the top of the hill, ready to defend themselves from every attack. They were arranged in a line, forming *a blunt wedge*, with an extremely large one in the middle, having a large black forehead, and a pair of tremendous horns. There were about a hundred in front, and about fifty on each side of him. A number of weaker ones were in the rear, and not one of them eating, but looking sternly at me. I was not afraid, knowing them to be sheep; yet I was not quite easy, as, if any fox had appeared at this time in attacking him and even chasing him, they might have killed me. These wedders are sent up into the hill in the end of April, or early in May, and the proprietors never look after them till about the end of October. It is well known they never sleep all at a time, but, as is the case with crows, geese, and other gregarious animals, there is always one at a distance on the look out. They never rest in a hollow, even in the most stormy night, but upon a rising ground, where they can

see all around; and, when they are attacked by a fox, or dogs, their assailants never fail to be killed. When furiously attacked, they form themselves into a circle, their heads all out ward, and the weaker ones in the centre; and if, as it sometimes happens, that a fox takes a spring, and leaps in among them, they instantly turn, and boxing him with their head, and stamping him with their feet, and tossing him with their horns, never fail to kill him; his ribs being generally all broken. When domesticated, animals generally leave their protection to man; but, when left to themselves, both instinct and experience teaches them how to defend themselves. When these sheep on the top of the hill saw me retire they grew more careless, and did not keep their ranks so straight; but whenever I turned, and was approaching them, they looked more steadily at me, stood closer together, and firmed their ranks more regularly; and, I verily believe, had I attempted to attack them, they would have resisted. I had once a mind to try it, but I confess I was afraid, as I observed them seemingly bending their knees, to make a spring at me.

I amused myself for some time with the various vegetable productions on the top of this hill. I observed four or five different species of heath, which, with cup-moss, yellow fog, as it is called by the common people, and two or three species of short tough grass, were the only vegetables I saw here. Round all the top of it I only found one small dwarfish plant of the heath, called foxtail. In a small hollow, with some water in it, I found a young trout. How it could come there I know not. It is

observed in India, that in appearance it sometimes rains fishes, that thousands of them are sometimes found soon after rain on the tops of the houses, which, as they were in the land of Judea, are generally flat; and this in inland places, which have no communication either with the sea, lakes, or rivers. It is, however, found, that the ova of fishes, insects, &c. are not only blown by the wind, but carried from one place to another, by having adhered to the wings and feathers of aquatic birds; and I am of opinion, that the ovum from which this trout sprung, and several other small fishes I saw in the rills near the top, must have come here one of these two ways.

So quick is the growth of animals and vegetables in India, that the ova of fishes blown or carried to the tops of houses, and into the fields, in a day or two after rain, by the moisture and heat, become alive and able to swim. Indeed, even on the banks of the Spey the growth of some animals and vegetables is astonishing. Rhubarb, it is well known, even in the north of Europe, will sometimes in May or June, after rain, grow *nine* or *ten inches* in twenty-four hours; and that goslings, in the course of two or three months, are as big as their mother. With regard to fishes, even in cold countries, where the growth of every thing is more slow than in warm climates, it is known they sometimes arrive at the *ne plus ultra* of their growth in a very short time. As an instance: not long ago, as a flood, early in the spring, had happened in the Spey, and banks, trees, &c. &c. had been carried along with it, some thousands of salmon fry, about two or three inches

long, were found in a hollow, left by the water. With a view, if possible, to ascertain their growth, hundreds of them were taken, and triangles, squares, ovals, circles, &c. carefully and neatly cut in their tails and fins, they were put into the Spey, several of which were caught in August and September four and five pounds weight.

I began to be so extremely hungry, that I would have given five shillings for a halfpenny roll; and it being about four in the afternoon, I had thoughts of descending; when, all at once, as I was looking towards the east, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the clouds went off from the mountain, and fields, hills, rivers, and other objects thirty miles distant, all at once appeared to view. The sight was grand in the extreme, and called up immediately to my mind that omnipotent being who makes the clouds his chariot, and rides on the wings of the wind. Astonishment seized upon my mind, and I stood admiring the grandeur of the scene. Before nor since I never felt myself impressed with such sublime ideas of the power of him who created the mountains, bade the sun, whose light and influence at once beamed upon me, to roll, and the far-distant ocean, which also appeared to view, and whose noise I even here heard, to hush and be still. Instead of the sensations of hunger and fatigue, which the moment before made me uneasy, I perceived a secret enjoyment, a calm satisfaction, and a glow of love to God and to the creatures of his hand, which no language can express. When I saw Peterhead on the east, at the distance of near sixty miles, and thousands of variegated intervening ob-

jects; on the north, the wide-extended ocean, as far as the eye could reach, and near twenty miles of land that intervened; and, toward the west, Inverness, the hills of Lovat, Urquhart, and all the beautiful country of Murray, with towns scattered here and there, appearing no more than a speck or pin's head, I was led to admire the wisdom, power, and goodness of that being who had created such an astonishing variety of objects for the comfort and happiness of man, and that unspeakable loving-kindness of his which induced him to calculate matters so that such diminutive, helpless, little animals, as men are, should be raised, one generation after another, from the comforts provided for them here below, to the hope of enjoyments far greater and more lasting beyond the sky.

When this fervour had subsided, I could not help thinking, from a view of the vast disproportion between the cultivated and uncultivated parts, which I here saw and recollected elsewhere to have seen, that Scotland, ata medium, is not one-fourth part peopled; that notwithstanding the great quantities of land taken in and improved, there are millions of acres yet in a state of nature, and that, as not a twentieth part of the ground in prospect is improved, that might be, and that as animals generally multiply in proportion to the quantity of food provided for them, if the landed proprietors here would exert themselves and encourage tenants, by giving them long leases and other proper encouragement, this, as well as the greatest part of the north and west of Scotland, might be made to produce subsistence for ten times the number of inhabitants

that are in it at present; and that, instead of the world's being eternal, as speculative men have so often argued, it seems only to be but created of late, since so little of it is yet improved.

The sun, having in appearance descended many degrees since he appeared to my wondering eyes, and about to be hid from my sight by the obstruction of a distant mountain, I thought of descending; and, by the time I came to a cottage at the foot of the hill, where I was partly known, he had hid his head behind the hills. Having been hospitably entertained by the mistress of this humble cottage, with her plain, but to me, at that time, delicious fare, willing to shew my gratitude, not only by words, as she would take nothing, I put some small pieces of silver into one of her children's hand, and left her, receiving her and her children's blessing.

But this was to me a day of wonders; for not long after I left the poor woman's house, when it began to grow dark, upon looking back to view that mighty mass of matter which had raised me near three thousand feet perpendicular above the spot where I then stood, I saw a considerable part of its surface on fire. Having never seen such an awful muirburn, as it is called, before, my amasement was again renewed, as it called up to my mind the idea of those four days, when, in the year 1666, three-fourths of London were burnt, and ten millions of sterling of value consumed; and of that awful period, when not only its surface, but all this huge mountain, as well as the globe itself, would be one universal blaze.

By the laws of Scotland, no muirburns are per-

mitted after the first of April; lest the nests of muir fowl, partridges, and other game, should be destroyed. However, anxious to destroy tall rank heath on the hills, which is neither so rich, nutritious, nor so grateful to the sheep and cattle, as the fine young heath, which springs up from the roots, enriched by the ashes of the old, the country people, when they have not accomplished it before, and the weather proves favourable, are apt sometimes, especially if they think it can be done unobserved, to set part of the hills on fire even after April and May; and it sometimes happens that moss takes fire by means of these muirburns, and continues to burn all the summer, or until a heavy fall of rain puts it out. The muirburn in Belrinnis, which I saw, as none could trace who began it, was termed accidental; and though it happened in the midst of summer, yet, as no serious mischief was done by it, no strict inquiry was made who began it. Robert Grant, esq. of Elchis, a gentleman in this neighbourhood, had several hundred acres of a fine young plantation destroyed by one. Sometimes also houses, corn fields, &c. &c. are burnt by them in high winds, and as in cities, when any part of them takes fire, the fire always spreads and runs towards that quarter from whence the wind comes; as fire, like the human race and other animals, requires pure air to make it live, and always increases or decreases in proportion to the quantity of combustibles and pure vital air it receives.

Next morning I went to see Kinermonie, in the parish of Aberlour, on the south-east bank of the

Spey, once belonging to the Knights Templars of St. John, who were surprised in the year 1310 in a wood on the opposite side of the river, whither they had gone to conceal themselves, and twenty of them slain.

From the history of the Knights Templars it appears that many of them were bad men, but, like the Roman Catholic clergy at the Reformation, their riches, more than their morals, was the cause of their destruction. It is certain these knights had fourteen hundred estates in Britain with castles, of which Kinermonie, some of the ruins yet appearing, was one and their chief residence at the Temple, near Temple Bar, London, which has its name from that circumstance to this day.

Having viewed Ballindalloch, the seat of general James Grant, who commanded a detachment of the British forces in the late American war, I went up the banks of the Avon to view the glens and country about its source.

As the water of this river is generally extremely clear, and apparently not deep, people are sometimes downed in crossing it. The truth is, clear water is often deceptive; for it is known that in the West Indies, &c. where the water of the sea is clear, a watch in the bottom, twenty fathoms down, has been seen from the surface, not appearing more than one. This has induced the proprietors and even government to assist in building bridges over this river; but it sometimes rises so high, and becomes so furious after heavy rains, that it often tears trees by the roots, and carries even land, houses, cattle,

Perdrix ou Bécasse grise et Bécasse.

bridges, &c. along with it; which happened the other year, and cost government about two thousand pounds.

Hearing that the people on the banks of the Avon, as well as many others where the rivers often come down so rapidly as to destroy the bridges, however well built, cross the river on *stilts*, a forked stick, in which they put their feet, and such as boys sometimes amuse themselves with even in the streets and neighhourhood of London, I took an opportunity to go to the church of Kirkmichael, that I might hear a sermon in the Gaelic language, and see near the half of the parish, which they must do or stay at home, passing the river on stilts. In one place was to be seen a stout handsome girl tucking up her petticoats, and walking on stilts, perhaps four or five feet high, carrying her mother across the river to church. In another quarter, a stout young fellow on the same unsteady implements, with his mistress on his back. In short, almost every where for some time before the church service begins, you see men, women, and children, crossing the river in this curious manner, which saves them the trouble of stripping off their shoes and stockings, and wading. This mode of passing rivers, both here and in other parts of the highlands, is generally practised without any other accident happening than now and then a wet skin; which, though it should happen, gives them little or no uneasiness, as they think nothing of sitting all the time of sermon in the church, in a frosty day, in their wet clothes, which

only a few minutes before came dripping with them out of the water.

Having found the clergyman here, whose name is Grant, a good divine and critic, and withal hospitable and obliging, I proceeded up the river side, after sermon, till I came to Tamintoul, a small village with an inn, where I found the landlady, though above seventy years of age, gay, lively, polite, and insinuating, and one that had no objections now and then to a glass or two of good warm punch. When saying to a gentleman with whom I fell in, and whom I found well informed, that our landlady had a civil way of treating strangers, he told me that her history is given in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland, for the parish of Kirkmichael, or Strathdoun; that being a very fine girl, about fourteen years of age, herding sheep in a neighbouring parish on the road side, upon a sergeant going past with some soldiers, and inquiring if she would go with him, though she had never seen him before, she said she would, and instantly leaving her sheep, actually went; that a captain, seeing such a fine handsome girl, took her from the sergeant, and with him to Germany. That next a superior officer had her; and that, last of all, a certain marquis, the commander in chief of the British forces, was, for some time, her constant companion; that she afterwards returned to this place in easy circumstances, where she married a handsome young fellow, whom she induced to enlist for a soldier, and went along with him abroad as a suttler to the army, where she saved money; that she had in all twenty-

three children, including homunculi; that she has a number of grand-children; and, that thinking prostitution a crime of no consequence, she had induced one of her daughters, and actually pushed her into the carriage to go and live with a young man, who, she knew, was squandering away a paternal estate, in the ruins of which her daughter would largely participate. The young woman went to Edinburgh, where she soon died, in circumstances that loudly arraigned the unnatural advice and persuasion of the profligate mother.

All around this part of the country, and, indeed, all the way from its mouth, on both sides of the Spey, to its source, there are only small patches of ground under culture; and the roads in general are neither good, nor in the best line of direction. The truth is, not a twentieth part of the surface, that is improvable, is in a state of cultivation; nor will it be, till the proprietors give longer leases, or some security to a diligent improving farmer, that he will not be turned out of the farm he has improved, at the end of nineteen years.

CASTLE GRANT, AND SPEY SIDE.

I HAD often heard of Strathspey and Castle Grant, where Sir James Grant, the chief of the Grants, resides. Being only a few miles distant, I went to see it, and found it a noble and extensive building, surrounded by distant mountains, but improvements of a thousand kinds all around it, in the vicinity, and to a considerable distance.

There happened to be a sale by auction of sheep, cattle, horses, &c. &c. belonging to Sir James, that day, and all the Grants, and chief men for a dozen or fifteen miles round, were assembled upon the occasion. Whether they thought their chief's horses, cows, &c. better than others, I know not: this much I know, many of the gentlemen present gave more for them than they were worth. However, to reward them for the active part they had taken in the business of the day, as is usual, it seems, on such occasions, there was an elegant dinner at Grantown, solely at Sir James's expense, and about twenty gentlemen sat down to it. Being a stranger, I had the honour to be invited to it, and found here the best wine, and London porter; and, while the gentlemen were drinking heartily, and I was admiring the good sense, the beautiful exterior and politeness of most of them, for most of them were among the handsomest men I ever saw, either in Scotland or England,* it

* Almost all the younger sons of the gentlemen here, as well as in other northern and highland districts of Scotland, go, when they are

was announced that there was a ball and dance in the town-hall, if any chose to attend. I found some of the gentlemen, instead of rising to go to the dance, draw nearer the table, and fill their glasses. For my part, having seen the gentlemen in this part of the country, and been highly pleased with them, I wished to see the ladies also, therefore, taking my hat, I bade my hospitable companions adieu, and set out for the ladies.

When I arrived at the ball-room, I was no less pleased. The room, which is large, was nearly filled with dancers of all ages, from gentlemen and ladies of eighty, to eight, all tripping it with the light fantastic toe. I found here honourables and right honourables, and people from thousands a year, to those that were not worth sixpence, all dancing and happy. I have heard some of the finest music in London, Edinburgh, York, and Bath, and seen the dancers at the Opera House, the Royal Circus, Saddler's Wells, &c. I have seen Italian, French, German, Dutch, Fandango dancers, &c. but never any to exceed, I had almost said equal the musical grace, and airy lightness of the dancers here. All seemed life, innocence, and happiness; every one seemed familiar and easy; yet, propriety of conduct was uniformly and strictly preserved.

While admiring the healthy happy countenances

very young, into the army, or military service of the East India Company. When they come to, or pass, their fortieth or fiftieth year, they often retire; sometimes with considerable fortunes, to their native soil: where they either make purchases, or rent farms, which are let to them by their kindred, who are the proprietors, in preference to others.

of this interesting scene, and the nimbleness of their motions, I could scarcely help lifting my feet something like them. A beautiful young woman seeing this, took hold of my hand, and pulled me on the floor. Say ye snarlers at the times, ye growling dissenters from the established religion of the country, say, what would ye have done? For my part, I tried what I could do, and called up some steps I had learned in the south, and what is called the polished parts of Scotland: but finding the highland fling, as it is termed, more natural than my stiff see-saw method of dancing, I adopted it as well as I could, particularly as my amiable new acquaintance, to whom I had been introduced in the forenoon, had once or twice whirled me about, and given me an excellent example how to balance and lift my feet. The truth is, I exercised myself near an hour, and more than I had done in the same time for several years past. If I was pleased with the light and graceful dancing, I was still more charmed with the unaffected politeness of the ladies in this part of the country. From a view of the scene, I was led to wonder, not that so many English duchesses, but rather that so few, had come from the banks of the Spey.

Making my bow, I returned to my quarters, and to see that my poney had got justice. Perhaps it may be of use to some of my readers, to be informed, that ostlers and stable boys often carry tallow in their pocket, with which, while they are cleaning the manger, to give your horse his oats, they rub his mouth, by which means, though your horse put his mouth among the oats, and seem to eat, yet he can scarcely eat any; and when you

are gone, thinking your horse has nearly finished what you gave him, Mr. Ostler carries off your oats, and too often converts them, as Swift says, into brandy.

Not many miles from this, I found a gentleman, who was not displeased that a couple of eagles, whose nest I went to see, regularly every summer built one on a rock in the hill, not far from his house. There was a stone within a few yards of it, about six feet long, and nearly as broad, and upon this stone, almost constantly, but always when they had young, the gentleman and his servants found a number of muir fowl, partridges, hares, rabbits, ducks, snipes, ptarmacans, rats, mice, &c. and sometimes kids, fawns, and lambs. When the young eagles were able to hop the length of this stone, to which there was a narrow road hanging over a dreadful precipice, as a cat brings live mice to her kittens, and teaches them to kill them, so the eagles, I learned, often brought hares, rabbits, &c. alive; and, placing them before their young, taught them to kill and tear them to pieces. Sometimes, it seems, hares, rabbits, rats, &c. not being sufficiently tamed, got off from the young ones, while they were amusing themselves with them; and, one day, a rabbit got into a hole, where the old eagle could not find it. The eagle one day brought to her young ones the cub of a fox, which, after it had bitten desperately some of the young ones, attempted to make its escape up the hill, and would, in all probability, have accomplished it, had not the shepherd, who was watching the motion of the eagles, with a view to shoot them, which they do with bullets, (swan shot

not being able to penetrate their feathers) prevented it. As the eagles kept what might be called an excellent larder, when any visitors surprized the gentleman, he was absolutely in the habit, as he told me himself, of sending his servants to see what their neighbours had to spare; and that they scarcely ever returned without something very good for the table. It is well enough known, that game of all kinds is not the worse, but the better for being kept for a very considerable time.

When the gentleman, or his servants, carried off things from the shelf, or table near the nest, for it was next to impossible to approach the nest itself, the eagles were active in replenishing it: but when they did not take them away, the old ones loitered about inactive, amusing themselves with their young, till the stock was nearly exhausted. While the hen eagle was hatching, the table, or shelf, on the rock, was generally kept well furnished for her use; and when she was in that state, or the eaglets very young, the other generally tore a wing from the fowls for her, and a leg from the beasts they brought. These eagles, as is generally the case with animals that are not gregarious, were faithful to one another; but would not permit, even any of their young to build a nest, or live near them, and always drove them off to a considerable distance. The eagles in this country are thought, by people who are judges of this matter, to be uncommonly large and voracious, and their claws are so long and strong, that I have seen them used by young people, by way of curiosity, as a horn, with a stopple for holding snuff, and carried regularly in the pocket for that purpose.

Many of the cattle in the Highlands are never in a house, either summer or winter. In severe winters, it is not an uncommon thing for the horses in the hills, for hunger, to eat one another's tails and manes; nay, one another's ears: but the tails and manes are oftener eaten, as this is done without any pain or resistance. They will fight a tough battle for their ears. Indeed, domesticated cattle are sometimes reduced to nearly the same state; and when the spring happens to be late, fodder sometimes rises suddenly to an enormous price; hay often starting, in the course of a week or two, from sixpence to three shillings per stone.

Elevation, I find, in certain situations and aspects, does not retard vegetation. Thus, in Badenoch, there are spots cultivated near fifteen hundred feet above the level of the sea; and yet, the grain ripens nearly as soon upon these, when they lie in a glen or on a southern exposure, as if they were a thousand feet lower. But grain, and other vegetables, in an elevated situation, when it is not screened from the north and east, and when there is little or no exposure towards the south, is always late in ripening, in proportion to its elevation, and the dampness of the soil. On a farm in Bamffshire, in the parish of Ordiquhill, I observed one field about three hundred feet elevated above another, and the grain nearly as far advanced; owing to this circumstance, that it was situated in what may be denominated an elevated hollow, or, as it were, bason.

Though the Spey is a broad and rapid river, yet, in some places, there are fords, through which, when these happen to be far from any boat, they sometimes

wade, and through which horses, carts, &c. are drawn. A beautiful young woman, lately, coming to one of these fords, the water, which is very clear, appearing not deep, she wished to cross it as fast as possible. Having taken off her shoes and stockings, and adjusted her petticoats for wading, she took a stick, by way of staff, to steady herself in wading. Near the middle of the river, finding the water deep, and far above her knees, she began to hesitate, whether to proceed or return. People a hay-making, on the opposite bank, saw her a coming; but the river not being swollen, and several having crossed in the same manner that day, they thought there was no danger. However, when they saw the young woman stand a considerable time, and then cry for help, they ran to her assistance; but, while they were doing this, she fell forward, and was carried away by the stream. In about a quarter of an hour, she was found a quarter of a mile from where she was crossing; but, though all means were used, recommended by the society for recovering drowned people, animation could not be restored.

Indeed, not unfrequently people are drowned while crossing the rivers in the Highlands. A clergyman lately having occasion to go from Bamffshire to Elgin, in Murray, thought there was no danger, it being summer and fine weather, in trying a ford about ten miles from the mouth of the Spey. Being on horseback, he rode before, and his servant followed on another horse with a cart, and the clergyman's wife in it, with some articles going to town. When they were near the middle of the stream, the servant informed his master that his

head was giddy, and stopped the horse. His master said he might return, which he attempted to do, but, losing his balance in the turning, he fell and disappeared; and the horse, with the lady in the cart, in turning, went off the ford into deep water, and was plunged over head. The clergyman, who had been married only a few months before, seeing the servant disappear, alighted from his horse, and making towards the cart, got to it just as his wife had left it, she being up to the neck. However, both he and she, in their early days, having learned to swim, though carried off their feet, swam to the side at which they had entered; but the servant, though taken out of the water in ten minutes, and the people persevered for six hours, at which I myself assisted, in rubbing him with warm grains, which happened to be at hand, he being laid on a bed before a good fire; as also in chaffing his hands, arms, legs, &c. and putting the pipe of a pair of bellows into one nostril, and blowing gently with it, while the other and the mouth was carefully kept shut; and practising the other means recommended for the recovery of drowned people by the Dutch physicians and physiologists, and after them by many others,* yet all proved ineffectual. In the

* Though Dr. Hawes would fain insinuate, that he, forsooth, is, if not the discoverer, yet a great improver in this matter! If men of talents, genius, and regular education, did not scorn to appear in the train of quackery, parade, and mummery, they might naturally be induced to take the lead in the management, and make many important observations on suspended animation and the restoration of life. There are some important observation on the quackery, &c. now alluded to in the English Review, for March

young man's pockets were found money and bills to the amount of sixty pounds, which he meant to put into the bank at Elgin.

The domesticated animals, as well as the fowls in the interior of the Highlands, shew often peculiar marks of sagacity. In a gentleman's house I was amused to see, one morning at breakfast, a cock, a beautiful bird, the door being open, come into the room. The mistress of the house threw some crumbs to him; but though it was early, and he had got nothing that morning, he would not touch them, but ran to the door and called his wives in a curious significant tone, till hearing him, he brought them to where the crumbs were; and taking some of them in his nib, though he ran, and collecting them, laid them down before his wives, particularly one who was, it seems, also one of his daughters.

In the course of my peregrinations one day through this part of the country, I went into a small hut, at the foot of a hill, where I only found a poor old woman about eighty years of age and her cat. As the poor woman was making some pottage for herself, the cat seemed clamorous for a share of it; and, indeed, grew so noisy, that the poor woman, with a spoon, took some boiling hot out of the pan, and put it into the cat's dish. The cat being hungry, immediately put her mouth to it; but, finding it too warm, she put her foot gently, though hastily, among it, but evidently spread it with a view to it cooling the sooner; and, in the mean time, took some out of

1795, p. 209. This article might be read with advantage by the subscribers to many funds set on foot by interested managers.

the dish on her foot, and having twirled it about in a curious manner, also to cool it, first ate what was on her foot, and then went to what was in the dish.

Indeed, not only the wild, but almost every species of domesticated animals in the Highlands seem to possess an uncommon share of sagacity. When the little Highland horses come to any boggy, soft, or miry piece of ground, they first put their nose to it several times, and then pat on it in a peculiar way with one of their fore feet; and some way or other, from the sound and feel of the ground, know whether they will not sink in it. They do the same thing with ice, and generally determine in the course of a minute whether they will proceed or not. Not far from Bamff, a physician,* who had been extremely useful, and netted some thousands of pounds, besides bringing up a genteel family, but who sometimes fell from his horse, and slept for hours by the road side, having one of these small horses, it never once went away when he fell off or lay down to sleep, but tarried till its master awoke. Nay, sometimes it would go round about him, and, by pushing him and rubbing him with its nose, awake him. Others of them, when any thing about their feet have been wrong, have been known to go to the smithy, and hold up the foot of their own accord that gave them uneasiness, or required to be shod.

But of all animals in the Highlands, the dog is, perhaps, the most sagacious. Not long ago, while a young man, an acquaintance of the coachman's, was walking, as he had often done, in lord Fife's stables at Bamff, a Highland cur, that generally was

* He died lately.

about the stables, gave the young man no trouble. However, having taken an opportunity, when the servants were not observing, to put a bridle, &c. in his pocket, the dog began to bark at the young man, and when he came to the stable door, would not suffer him to pass, but actually bit his leg to prevent him. As the servants had never seen the dog do so before, and the same young man had been often with them, they could not conceive what could be the reason for the dog's conduct. However, when they saw the end of a valuable bridle peeping out of the young man's pocket, they were able to account for it; and upon the young man giving the servants the bridle, &c. the dog left the middle of the stable door, where he for some time had stood, and allowed him to go out. And I recollect, when I passed some time at the viscount of Arbuthnot's, at Hatton, in the parish of Mary Kirk, one of his lordship's estates, when the out-of-door servants went out one morning, they found a man that they knew, and that lived at a few miles distance, lying on the road a few yards from the stable, with a number of bridles, girths, &c. &c. near him, and the house dog, which was of the Highland breed, lying also at his ease, holding the seat of the man's breeches in his mouth. The man confessed his crime, and told them, that the dog had struggled with him, and held him in that situation for five hours; but that immediately after the servants appeared, the dog let go his hold. It is well known, that in London, the other year, a box, properly directed, came to a merchant's shop to lie there all night, and be shipped off with other goods

next morning; and that a shepherd's dog, that accidentally came into the shop with a customer, discovered, by his smelling it, and repeatedly barking at it in a peculiar way, after it had lain in the shop some hours, that the box contained not goods, but a fellow who intended to plunder the shop in the night time, and admit his companions. The sagacity of birds is well known. Though they cannot count, yet when they feed their young, they always begin, though they should be all gaping, at that place where they left off the time immediately preceding. It is owing to birds not being able to count that hens and other birds continue to lay eggs (if you abstract one at a time) day after day, and week after week, in hopes to have as many as their wings can cover, and they can conveniently hatch.

And here I cannot help mentioning the sagacity of some species of rats, to be found in the Highlands, and which there, as well as in other parts of Scotland, proceed from one district to another, not by the exercise of their feet, but by adhering to the tails of the horses. The truth is, when the Highlanders go to sea-port towns for coals, salt, groceries, &c. as their horses' tails are generally long, nay, so much so as to sweep the ground, rats from about the shore and stables where they lodge, often leap up among the hair in the horses' tails, where they sometimes continue for days, and till they are carried to the interior of the country. And as it was found some time ago, that two rats, each having the end of a straw in its mouth, lead blind ones, such blind ones walking in a line between them,

with the middle of the straw in its mouth; so it has been found, more lately, that pole-cats, and water as well as land rats, treat their old, blind, and infirm friends, in the same way, with a small stick in their mouths, when they travel from one glen or district to another in the Highlands, and which they seldom do but in a body, as if by compact and agreement; indicating that among them, as is evidently the case among rabbits, there is a species of government and subordination.

In the interior of the Highlands, a farmer living near a great man, whose pigeons ate much of his grain, and having made repeated complaints without effect, as he was not at liberty to shoot them, got a dead dog conveyed into the pigeon-house, which induced all the pigeons to forsake it; and it was not till some months after, that the gentleman knew the reason they had done so, and that any carrion in a pigeon-house produces such an effect.

I am sorry to say, that as in England, so in Scotland, by way of speculation, some men marry a handsome woman, not so much because they love her, as because they hope to obtain a divorce and ample damages from some rich seducer. Several of late, in the north of Scotland, have tried this mode of making money, and have unfortunately succeeded.

During my stay in the interior of the Highlands, I employed people to procure for me the eggs of partridges, muir fowl, lapwings, crows, magpies, &c. to be hatched by hens, ducks, geese, and the like. Young partridges, in a few minutes after they get their nib through the shell, and often with part of it adhering

to their hind parts, run off, not in a direct line, but always by the side of a road, hedge, ditch, or in some hidden place. They run a few yards, which, when only a few minutes disengaged from the shell, they do very quickly, then stoop, putting their breast to the ground, then run and stoop again. Muir fowl, lapwings, wild geese, and ducks, do the same when hatched by domesticated fowls. I never failed to find the young produced from wild ducks or geese eggs, when hatched by domesticated fowls, to be the colour of wild ducks and geese without the least degree of approach to the colour of domesticated ones. But I found, if their young, upon being prevented from running away, laid eggs, that these being hatched, the young ones, in general, did not differ much, though they did a little, from the colour of their undomesticated state.

If you put crows or magpies eggs below a hen, she never fails to peck and kill the young of such soon after they are hatched; and if you put magpies eggs under a crow, in a state of incubation or the contrary, the crow never fails to kill the young magpies, and jostle them out of the nest, as do the magpies to the young crows. If you put hens eggs under a duck, she will not pay attention to the chickens when hatched. A common hen, so far as I know, is the only fowl that cares for the young she may hatch, not of her own species. She seems as much alarmed when the ducks she has hatched go to the water, as if she herself had laid eggs that produced them.

A cow, I have found, sometimes allows the calf of another to suck her, and a ewe another's lamb;

and it is a fact, that in the Highlands, as well as in some other parts of Scotland and also England, dogs sometimes suck cows. Young horses have also been found to suck cows; and bulls, particularly when young, do the same. In Berkshire, not long ago, a pig, as its mother had more young ones than she could well suckle, often attempted to suck an ewe, which the ewe would not permit; but after her lamb was killed, she allowed the pig sometimes to suck her. It is, I believe, pretty certain, that in Berkshire, when they tied up a dog from sucking a cow, so that he could not come to her, she often went to him, that he might do it. I knew a man in Bamffshire, deprived of reason, that wandered about the country; and, as he frequently, in summer, lay out all night, he generally went and sucked cows, where ever he could find them, and he was generally fat and healthy, and generally chose to sleep and sculk all night about byres or parks, if permitted.

Considering the variety of improvements now going on almost every where in Scotland, the consequence of liberty, it is not a little surprizing that the gentlemen, in the interior are still, in many points of view, so blind to their own interest. It is well known that the ashes of fern are extremely useful, not only in making soap, but for other purposes. Now, if the gentlemen, almost every where along the coasts of Scotland, encourage their tenants to burn sea-ware; the ashes of which, being useful in our glasshouses and other manufactories, fetch a high price; why do not the land proprietors, particularly in the interior, where, manufactures being but few, hands can be easily spared, encourage their tenants to collect and burn,

on the sides of hills and waste lands, the ferns which grow there, which could easily be done, and would undoubtedly find a good market? And, as ragweed, a biennial, which also abounds in many places, and which, besides when young, being good for sheep, is found to contain an excellent dye stuff, I am surprised that gentlemen do not try to convert what grows in their fields into more useful purposes than any it serves at present. It is a fact, that from the bark of the elder, or arn tree, as the common people call it, the juice of ragweed, and a few other productions of the country, the women in the interior, even at this day, as has been done in all ages, produce in their tartans, &c. as various and vivid colours as the dyers in England can do with their foreign drugs; and, however much the tanners may call the fact in question, certain it is, that besides producing an excellent die, the bark of the alder, as well as that of the birch tree, contains an excellent tawn; and that they are often employed for that purpose by the country people, many of whom make, even yet, their own shoes; and, as their forefathers did, to avoid the tax on leather, privately tawn hides with the bark of birch and alder.

In many parts, I observed what is termed a *caput mortuum*, in other words, fields and parts of the same field that would scarcely produce any thing; and that the farmers, particularly in the Highlands, imagined this disease in the ground, and reluctance to produce, arose from the mere fatigue of bearing: but they should reflect, that this want of energy in the ground to produce, which some-

times happens to ground by no means worn out, is often not so much owing to its fatigue, that is, its being exhausted by bearing, as to other causes; and that the ploughing even one-tenth of an inch deeper, or introducing a little earth, however small, that has lain dormant for a few years, or different from the soil in question, would not only give a vegetative quality to the whole, but, like a small quantity of yeast put to a tun of stagnant new ale, give life, vigour, and vivifying qualities to the whole.

In the course of my travels on the banks of the Spey, I fell in, one evening, with a crowd of people about the edge of it. Upon inquiring the cause of their crowding together, I found they were ducking a tailor. The tailor, who was rather of a diminutive size, had had the bands of matrimony proclaimed three different Sundays with a young woman in a neighbouring parish; but offered to stake five guineas, that though this was the case, yet he could get any servant-maid in the parish to marry him before Sunday. There being a beautiful young girl in the house where this tailor and they who held the bet were drinking, they fixed upon her as a trial. The tailor immediately stept to the kitchen, took her by the hand, told her that, though the bands of matrimony were proclaimed with another, he did not mean to marry her; that, however, he was determined to be married without delay; that she was the person he had fixed on, and that he must have her answer this evening. The girl did not believe him. However, upon two of his acquaintance, who were sent by him, reasoning with her on the same

Thurston delt. Myers sculp.

A Blacksmith ducking a Tailor.

ground that he had done, namely, that he had a house and a good business, and she neither father nor mother to care for her, she began to hesitate, and partly to promise to hear him. There happened to be in the house, a drunken smith, an uncommonly stout man, who observing what was going on, and finding, interrogating the tailor, that he was only in jest with the girl, and did not mean to marry, immediately took him to the river side, and then, dragging him by the collar into the river, ducked him heartily, only bringing his head now and then above water, that he might not be drowned. Such, I found, was the cause of so many being assembled here, all heartily approving of the drunken smith's conduct, as I confess I also did, the tailor certainly deserving punishment for treating a poor unsuspecting girl as he did.

Though you meet as polite people here as any where in England of the same rank, yet it must be confessed, that some time ago the people of this, as well as other parts of the north of Scotland, were cruel and barbarous in the extreme. For instance, in looking into the parish books of Aberlour, I found that a young woman, less than a hundred years ago, had stood in the jugs (an iron collar fixed by a chain to the church door), for saying she was with child to one of the parish, though she told the truth. It was certainly shameful in the young man to deprive the young woman of her virtue, but certainly much more shameful not only to deny the fact, but also to induce the justices, of which he was one, to condemn the poor girl to stand like a

common malefactor at the church door for telling the truth.

Previously to the year 1748, the great landholders had power of life and death, or pit and gallows, as the Scotch law expresses it; and so much were the common people attached to their chiefs or great men, that they, in general, implicitly submitted to their decision, sometimes not so much through fear as a desire to please them. When a poor man, some time before 1748, on the banks of the Spey, was found fault with by his superior, the proprietor of Ballendalloch, and put into a pit till the gallows was prepared, he drew a short sword that he had got into the pit, and declared he would kill the first man that put a hand to him. His wife, however, upon using this argument: "Come up quietly and be hanged, and do not anger the laird," prevailed on him to check his ferocity, and submit to his fate.

Many people argue, and are apt to think, from the number of adventurers that yearly leave Scotland, and seek a subsistence elsewhere, that there is nothing but muirs and mountains, hunger and starvation in that country; but such have only to go and see that there are the good things of life in the northern as well as the central and southern parts of Scotland. For instance, in a certain kitchen in the county of Bamff, there are not only French cooks, French soups, and almost every species of food prepared, but a servant whose business it is, upon many occasions, to stand with a mop dipped in liquid butter, and flame and feed the fire with this species of fuel, that the soups, raggoos, &c. may have

a fine flavour. I have tolerably good information, that several pounds of butter are consumed daily in producing a pure flame for the purposes of cooking daily in many kitchens in the northern parts of Scotland, though this is a scandalous waste, and a piece of luxury to be utterly reprobated.

Even in the mountains and muirs of Caledonia, good things are now sometimes to be found. I speak from experience. Being invited to dine, one day, on a hill, not far from the banks of the Spey, about two o'clock, a large tent or marquee was set up; the tent lined, I should have said hung round, in the inside with green curtains, and silk fringes. About three o'clock, the tables were covered, and all the rarities of the season spread upon them. About four, the ladies in coaches, and some, like Diana, when she went a hunting, arrived in sight; and the gentlemen, with their servants, &c. drew near the tents in neat hunting dresses, and brought with them sixty-five brace of birds, besides hares, partridges, and a large pole-cat, the terriers had caught. At half past four, dancing began on fine short, soft heath, in full bloom all around. At five, dinner was announced. To the best of beef, mutton, fowls, and venison, there was added some braces of most excellent muir-fowl. The fire with which they were dressed, in the end of the tent behind a large green curtain, was composed of oil and gunpowder. There was porter, beer, brandy, cyder, perry, &c. with wines of the very best taste and flavour. We were all happy. The song and glass went round, and the day, as it generally does with each of the company, descended in peace.

Next day, as I was riding up from Castle Grant, on the banks of the Spey, I came up with a good looking young man, without the appearance of any teeth. After some conversation, finding him civil, "Pray how came you to lose your teeth."—Oh! replied he, shaking his head, I was but the other week at a market; and, hearing some noise in a house where there were some people drinking, and, as if they had been fighting, I had just peeped in at the door; when, while I was laughing at their fighting about they knew not what, I received a stroke with a stick, that drove in all my teeth, without any other way hurting me, and here they are, says he, pulling some beautiful white teeth from his pocket. But I have got an excellent lesson, and shall never interfere with drunken people again, unless I am compelled to do it.

Notwithstanding that there are some ignorant and savage individuals to be found in the interior of the Highlands, yet the people in general are better informed on several points than in the southern parts of Scotland, or in England, which seems in a great measure owing to their travelling far to markets, &c. to the parochial schools, and the schools established by the society for propagating christian knowledge, all over the Highlands. This society, in general, appoint well qualified and diligent schoolmasters, and pay them from ten to twenty pounds a year each; which schoolmasters are under the cognizance and controul of the presbytery of the bounds; and who, though the schoolmasters are bound to teach the children of the poor gratis, and to afford them school and other pious books, yet, to make the schoolmaster com-

fortable, have enacted, that the landholders, where such school is situate, shall afford a house, fuel, and a few acres of land to the schoolmaster. In every glen and sequestered place, at a distance from the parochial school, there is generally a school of this kind; and many, who are making a figure both in the army and navy, and particularly who bled on the banks of the Nile, have been educated at these schools.

But there is another cause of the knowledge to be found among the common people in the Highlands and islands of Scotland, and that is, what is termed the royal bounty; or a thousand pounds a year, given by his majesty to catechists and preachers, which are also scattered in the glens and other sequestered places, at a distance from the parish churches. These catechists and preachers are, in general, sober and attentive, going from house to house instructing and catechising the people. I went to hear Mr. Alexander Grant, of Glenrinnis, one of these glen preachers, and must say that I heard as good a sermon, seemingly spoken extempore; and *nearly* as well delivered, though for twenty years he has had only thirty pounds a year, as I have heard in some of the London churches, where the rectors are allowed six or eight hundred pounds.

Though the utility of the parochial schools is obvious, yet there is one great fault in them, that too many things are taught in them by one person; for, how is it possible that any one man can teach, with accuracy, Greek, Latin, French, English, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, geography, &c. &c. A good grammar school in every presbytery or cer-

tain district, with an able master, and an assistant, where grammatical studies are chiefly attended to, is an object devoutly to be wished.

The business of a schoolmaster in Scotland is not near so lucrative as in England; some of the masters of academies there getting more money per annum by selling skipping-ropes, whipping-tops, &c. &c. to their pupils, which they in general do, than the twenty pounds of salary, and all the items of a parochial schoolmaster's income in Scotland taken together.

In perusing the parish books of Aberlour, I found it mentioned, that though the parson had desired his elders, which are a kind of church-wardens, to hold a court, on a certain occasion, they did not attend; but, immediately after public worship, ran out to the churchyard, there being, as it is expressed, a fray in the churchyard, occasioned by the proprietor of Elchies, and another gentleman, having drawn swords, fighting, and most of the congregation also fighting, having joined the one or the other of these persons. The parson also went out, but his persuasion was insufficient to make the combatants desist. Such frays often happened in this country about a hundred years ago.

Not only the common people, but even the clergy, and better sort, in the interior of the Highlands, till about sixty or seventy years ago, believed in ghosts, fairies, brownies, hob-gobblings, and the like. I fell in with an old man, that positively insisted he had seen them, and that a gentleman, belonging to the parish of Boharm, upon shooting among fairies, who were dancing round a green tumulus, one summer evening, wounded one of them, so that it could not

fly off with the rest; that he caught and kept it all night; but that, recovering, it flew away in the morning. Pliny, the best informed and the most voluminous writer of natural history, among the Romans, tells us that a boy used to ride across a bay in Italy on a dolphin's back, and this old man firmly believes, that in the days of his father, a water kelpie, or a something which, I found, he could not describe, would frequently come to the edge of the Spey; and, taking his father on his back, and others, one by one, carry them across the river, where it was so swoln and furious, that no boat could cross it. Smiling at this old man's credulity, I said nothing, knowing it would be in vain to attempt to convince him, that Pliny and he too must have been mistaken.

The great faults of the common people in the Highlands are laziness and an inordinate attachment to whiskey, a strong spirituous liquor. Indeed, in many places, whiskey is with them the grand elixir and universal specific for all disorders. They administer it in colds, fevers, and faintings, and it is a frequent prayer of theirs, that "God may keep them from that disorder that whiskey will not cure." Children often, the day they are born, begin to be initiated in drinking this baneful liquor; and so lazy are many of them, that they rather choose to lounge about idle, and half starved, than work and be well fed. The truth is, their laziness is a kind of second nature. Brought up from their infancy in tending sheep and cattle, and seeing no object to rouse their attention, or a desire to better their condition, they grow callous and indifferent; and, if I may use the

expression, delight to drone on doing nothing. But, though this is evidently the general character of the Highlanders, yet, rouse their attention, and shew them any prospect that promises success, and they become active, enterprizing, and persevering; in this respect resembling the Cherockee Indians, and most other nations only verging towards improvement.

While in the upper parts of the county of Bamff, going one day to a small farm house, in quest of something for my horse, as well as myself to eat, I observed a large fox lying dead on the floor, and learned that the good woman of the house, having gone out in the morning to a furze bush, not many yards from the door, for some wearing apparel that had been drying on it, seeing a fox sleeping in the bush, and recollecting that she had of late lost almost all her fowls, went quietly to the house, and with one stroke of her tongs, made him motionless. She informed me that a fox had been caught in a trap by her husband, by the leg, some weeks before, but that it bit off the foot, a little above where it was held, and, going away, left it in the trap.

In Glenaven, which is a desert place, near twenty miles long, and scarcely a house or any thing to be seen but cattle, which are sent there to graze in summer, observing some gentlemen, with dogs, shooting at a large old nest in a tree, I rode up to them, and found, that one of the terriers coming past, and looking up into the tree, continued barking, though nothing was to be seen. This induced the gentlemen to return; but though they saw nothing, as the terrier continued to bark, looking up at the

nest, they fired at it, when an old, and a number of young pole-cats appeared, running about in the nest. They fired several times, till one of the pole-cats ventured to come down, but it was chased, and soon killed. A young man, servant to one of the gentlemen, climbed up the tree, and found five large young pole-cats in the nest, who were all shot, but one, that bit his hand so dreadfully, that he roared out, and was in danger of losing his hold, and being killed.

Glenaven is an uncommonly cold place in winter; the snow generally lying till April and May, when it begins to break, and the heath, in black spots, here and there in the glen, and on the sides of the hills, to appear through the snow. So severe is the frost here sometimes, that lately a heron, which delights to stand in the edge of rivers and lakes, found the foot on which it had stood so frozen, when it had been sleeping, that in the morning it was not able to get away, its foot being so much frozen among the ice. In that attitude it was found and caught.

It is difficult to account for the formation of such enormous quantities of peat-moss as are to be found in many parts of the Highlands, even on the summit of hills, where large trees of various kinds are preserved in them. In some parts of the Highlands I found peat-moss on the tops of the hills, three and four feet deep, with sometimes a stratum of blue clay; and sometimes of sandy stones, though not round, or having the appearance of being rolled in water underneath. In former times, the mountains and hills of Scotland must have been covered on the summit with wood, though there is none to be found grow-

ing on them now. In some places, there is an oily, and highly inflammable substance mixed with the moss, particularly towards the bottom, which makes it give great heat, and burn like a torch. In other places, the moss, though not oily, is hard, heavy, and impregnated with highly inflammable matter, approaching the nature of pit-coal, which leads me to think that many, if not all, the seams of coal in the earth are, perhaps, vegetable matter; and that, was any violent eruption of nature to take place, and these large strata of moss to be placed some fathoms below the surface of the earth, as some of them are extremely hard and black already, they would, in all probability, assume not only the appearance, but, by the pressure, the exclusion of the air, and new impregnations from surrounding materials, become strata of coal, such as at present are found and dug out of the earth.

Though in many parts of Scotland there are thousands of acres of peat-moss, that will not be exhausted for ages, even though they should dig it up and burn it, merely for the excellent soil sometimes found below it; yet, in many places, the moss is already completely exhausted; and, were it not that the landholders are beginning to form plantations of firs and other woods adapted to the soil, these parts, in all probability, would soon become uninhabited, on account of the cold in winter, and want of fuel.

The natural sagacity, perhaps suspiciousness of the greater part of the common people, in the mountains of Scotland, is remarkable. When I asked any question, they generally, by way of preliminary, an-

swered it by asking another; and the more you urge them to answer you, notwithstanding their propensity to oblige, the more numerous their questions become. Like the naked savage in Demerara, who, when about to rob his master, rubbed all his body with oil; that he might the more easily glide out of their hands, if any should catch him; so, by a natural instinct, the inhabitants of the interior, and mountainous parts of Scotland, are careful, before they satisfy your curiosity, to guard against all the consequences that might possibly flow from their doing so.

There are a variety of druidical temples and monuments of antiquity in the mountainous as well as the southern parts of Britain. The forests of oak and other trees in the north and mountainous parts of the country, which are now covered with moss, and where there are no trees at all, must have been immense, and the machines with which the Druids carried and set up the stones that now mark the scite of their temples, vast, and beyond what we have any conception of at present. Indeed, I cannot comprehend how such immense and ponderous stones, as I saw at Stone-hinge, by Salisbury, in Wiltshire, could be moved; nor can I comprehend how the Druids, in the mountainous and northern parts of Scotland, could move such enormous masses as are at many of their temples; some of them being ten, twenty, and, perhaps, thirty ton weight. They must have had engines, or mechanical contrivances, of which we, well informed as we think ourselves, have not any, even the least, conception.

The immense cairns too, or heaps of stones, which

are frequently to be met with, and which were raised over the dead bodies of their chiefs, and great men, were not formed without reason. It has been asked of what use these cairns and heaps of stones are? and why every one was required to add a stone to the general heap? The reason is obvious. At this day, though it can do them no good, we are apt to revere the ashes of the good and the great; and though it can be of no real use to them, to put their remains in lead coffins, or otherwise try to preserve and keep them together. In the times of the Druids, when Scotland, as well as England, was overrun with woods and immense forests, bears, wolves, and other wild beasts, the human bodies were often dug up out of their graves, torn in pieces, and eaten by them. To prevent the bodies of those they revered from those devouring animals, they generally raised a heap of stones over them, and every one that passed being desired, not only to shew their respect to their superiors, but also to contribute their mite of respect to the remains of the deceased hero, or great man, generally added a stone to the heap, as it tended still more to protect their bodies from being devoured. And, when their Druids, or other great men in the priesthood, were buried in woods, or near their temples, where it would have been inconvenient to raise a heap of stones over them, they buried them in stone coffins, that could not easily be torn asunder by the teeth of devouring animals.

Notwithstanding the rapid improvements and diffusion of knowledge in all parts of the country, there are many, even yet, in the interior parts of Scotland, who believe in charms, and anti-charms; and, though it is not so often to be seen

as formerly, yet sometimes they put a slip of the mountain ash over the door of their cowhouses, &c. and tie pieces of it in their cows tails, to prevent witchcraft and enchantment. Even in a clergyman's house, I saw an infant with a silver broach, or buckle, fastened to its clothes for the same purpose: but this was done by the nurse; the clergyman was certain it could be of no use, but allowed it to continue, as one and all the females in the house were of a different opinion. They always fix it to girls somewhere to the clothes about the left hip, and on boys about the middle of the left thigh, to protect his powers of generation. Nay, I fell in with an old woman, in the course of my travels, near the source of the Spey, with a large brass broach, in the form of a circle, about five or six inches diameter, fixed on her clothes upon the left hip, which she had worn, night and day, for more than half a century; to preserve her from mischief.

The people in England, and indeed in the southern parts of Scotland, have scarcely any conception how hardy those who live in the northern and mountainous parts are. To give an instance: the other winter, as about a hundred people, who attended a wedding, were crossing the Spey, in an uncommonly cold, frosty day, the bride's mother becoming dizzy, was likely to fall into the river. The bridegroom, seeing this, in turning his horse, in the middle of the water, to keep her steady, lost his balance, and, falling into the water, disappeared for some time, being carried down the river among pieces of ice that were passing. However, at about ten or twelve yards from the place where he fell, recovering him-

self, he raised his head above water, scrambled among the ice to the water side, shook his ears, mounted his horse, and, though often advised, would not shift his clothes; but, as hearty and as happy as a king, danced all the evening, the icicles, like the bells on Aaron's robe, hanging, dangling and rattling at the tails of his coat, as he was dancing. Between twelve and one, he retired to bed with his fair bride, and appeared in excellent spirits next morning; coughs and colds being what he scarcely ever felt. In the Western Isles, women are sometimes seen suckling their children while wading up to the knees in snow, without either shoes or stockings; and, being habituated to it, without finding any inconvenience. Mr. Campbell, one of the late duke of Argyle's factors, or stewards, as a never-failing cure for the cold, was wont to put on his great coat and boots, go and lie down for a minute or two in that state in the water, and then immediately go to bed, boots and all. He lived to be a very old man; and this, it seems, was his constant as well as never-failing cure for any serious cough or cold he happened to catch.

Nor do the old, but also the young give demonstration of hardiness; for, as two little boys, the other winter, in the upper parts of the county of Bamff, the one about six, and the other about eight years of age, who, having neither father nor mother, were begging, were overtaken by a fall of snow, in the month of February, about five o'clock, in a cold frosty evening, and not seeing any house, nor knowing which way to go, after they were tired, lay down in a furrow, in one another's arms, and, covering themselves the best way they could with a small

blanket each of them had about them, fell asleep; and about seven in the morning waked, the weather being calm and serene, in perfect health.

Though few people are rich, yet, comparatively speaking, there are but few beggars in the Highlands, and no poor's rates, the poor being supported with what is collected at the church door on Sundays, and donations or legacies left them, and distributed by the minister and his elders as to them seems prudent.

The diversity of climate between Murray and some parts of the interior of Scotland is very considerable. A gentleman in the upper parts of the county of Bamff having advertised in the newspapers some farms to let, some Murray, farmers came with a view to bid for them. When these men left the lower parts of Murray early in the morning, the ploughs and harrows were going, the birds singing, &c.; but when, about mid-day, they arrived at the farms advertised, which were at the foot of the hill of Belrinnis, they found the farms not cleared of the winter snow, and the frost so hard, that scarce a plough could enter. But this diversity of climate, which happened within a dozen or fifteen miles of each other, can easily be accounted for. A certain degree of cold, even in Jamaica, attends a certain elevation; and in the mountains, near the centre of that island, there are often frost and snow; and Scotchmen, who live about these mountains, complain that they have found it nearly as cold in Jamaica as it is in Scotland. In like manner the river Spey rises near three thousand feet perpendicular above the

level parts of Murray; and there are grazing places, nay, even patches of ploughed land in Strathspey above fifteen hundred feet perpendicular above the level of the sea; and when this elevation happens to be upon a cold, damp soil, the difference of climate is remarkable; and seed time, in some places, often does not commence till the month of May.

In the upper parts of Bamffshire, happening, one Sunday, to hear an old clergyman, whose text was, "When ye are reviled revile not again," partly recommend duelling; and, being asked to dine with him, I hinted, as delicately as I could, that I thought his method of treating his subject a little uncommon. He confessed that he was an enemy to duelling in general, but thought it might be necessary in some cases. I found, however, this gentleman had a son, a young man about nineteen, who, upon his being appointed to a cadetship in the East India Company's service, was the only Scotchman in the character of a gentleman that happened to be in the ship which took him out to India. This being the case, the second mate, an Englishman, took an opportunity, when ordering him to do this and the other thing, to call one of the men a Scotch scoundrel, booby, lousy rascal, and the like. The young man, thinking himself pointed at, begged of the officer, when he gave his orders, or found fault with his men, that he would not use the word *Scotch* so frequently, since, though the man might be a Scotchman and a scoundrel too, yet there was no necessity for using so frequently and so forcibly an epithet

that conveyed a national reflection. As the officer persisted in using this term, the young man told him, he should wish to speak with him on the first island they came to, it not being allowed to give or receive a challenge on shipboard. At length, Madeira appeared. The young man then sent a message to the officer, that, as the boat was going on shore, he expected he would accompany him. Upon having occasion to send this message a second time, he desired it to be added that he had a couple of pistols, as also of swords, and he should have his choice; but that, if he did not come without delay, he would come and kick him. The officer at length seeing his folly, came upon deck, and promised not to use the word Scotch, as he had done. But this did not satisfy the young man. As the offence had been committed openly and repeatedly before all the ship's company, it was necessary that the apology, if one was to be made, should also be open and explicit. The once blustering, but now humble officer, therefore, came on the quarter-deck, and begged the young man's pardon; which was granted on the condition of not using any such national reflection during the voyage.

Having dined with the good old clergyman, whose son had acted, though against the letter of the law, in really so prudent and spirited a manner, I went to my quarters to note some things in my memorandum book, which, when I had done, my landlady told me an acquaintauce of her's had been at the church, and had learned that the ladies in England, as they are called spinsters, are now be-

ginning to be diligent at their wheels; that the princesses had all taken to spinning; that the queen and the duchess of Gordon had met lately, as was the fashion long ago, at a spinning match, striving who could spin finest and the most. She had also heard in the church-yard, (for the country church-yard is generally the exchange of the parish, where all the news and lies are handed about, and all the new gowns, &c. of the young people exhibited), that, as the short-waisted gowns were first introduced by a lady who was with child, that she might not hurt the child, and adopted by the young women to shew how careful they would be were they married, so gowns were now becoming longer, and that the fine ladies in London, &c. had now got their hair dressed exactly in the same way as the girls in the Highlands have dressed theirs for many years. With such a mixture of truth and lies do the people in retired parts of the country amuse themselves.

The people's ideas of justice and equity are very different at present from what they were about a hundred years ago; for, even so late as the year 1715, nothing was more common than for a man to go from his own to a neighbouring parish, and not only to take one, but dozens of sheep, thinking it no great crime; and it is well known, that when a man in the parish of Inveraven, about that period, had stolen some sheep, and shorn and scraped their horns to disguise them, was detected, he was prevailed upon to drive the sheep back to the place where he found them; but that he thought the new laws absurd and severe that obliged him to return

the wool also, and have nothing for his trouble, and accordingly obstinately persisted in keeping the wool.

The most notorious thief of this kind, who was hanged about eighty years ago, was named Robert, commonly called Rob, Roy. He had lived by plundering, all the days of his life. He and his party, that sometimes amounted to fifty, often attacked castles and gentlemen's houses, and carried them by force: and so desperate was he, that when the people in a certain castle would not give him admission, it being harvest, he and his men brought corn from the fields, packed it up all round the house as high as the eves, and were about to set it on fire, to smoke them out like rats, as he expressed it, when those within, to prevent being with the house burned to ashes, yielded. As he had murdered many, when he was taken he had his right hand cut off before he was hanged, which was found to be co-covered with red hair, like a beast: so strong was he, and so much had he been in the open air.

Though the young men here practise gallantry, and pay, in general, as much attention to the ladies as ever was done in any age or country, and would, as the earl of Essex did to queen Elizabeth, permit their teeth to be pulled out to shew their sweethearts, who are attacked with the tooth ache, what an easy matter it is to lose a tooth, yet I am sorry to say some of the female servants here are, perhaps, the greatest slaves and drudges in the world. There are servants in England hired and kept for shew; and so much do some of the ladies about London wallow in riches and luxury, that they have a servant to attend their lap-dog, to comb and wash it, take it out an airing, to protect it from

snarling curs, and carry it where the road happens to be bad: but such slaves as some of the servants in the Highlands are, I never saw, except in Caithness, &c. where the women carry out the dung in baskets on their backs, while the men lie lounging about the house, doing nothing but filling the wicker baskets on the women's backs.

Notwithstanding that the people in the Highlands are in general lazy, yet I was astonished to see with what facility some of them can almost do every thing. Respectable farmers, not only in the inland parts of the country, but even not far from towns and seats of improvement, often make and mend their own shoes, clothes, carts, harrows, ploughs, &c. &c. without being at all ashamed of it. So they do in Norway, and Swedish, and Russian Finland. I dined one day, in Badenoch, with a respectable farmer of the name of Macdonald, who did all this, though he had more than a thousand pounds out at interest, and who politely said to a woman that sat beside him, when one pulled out his watch, "Madam, the watch there puts us in mind of the hours, but you ladies make us forget them."

There is a shamefully destructive amusement, which the men are fond of, and which, though against the law, too many of the proprietors in the upper parts of the country do not discourage, I mean the killing of salmon in the rivers in winter, while they are spawning. As, by law, the heritors near the mouths of rivers are entitled to do all they can to prevent fish going up the rivers, so the proprietors on each side of the river in the upper parts of the country, though it is against the law, seem to wink at their tenants for destroying as many

of them as they can, and preventing them from going down the river again; and thousands of salmon are not only killed in the river Spey, in the Aven, and other rivers that run into it, but also, I believe, in most rivers in Scotland, particularly in the northern counties, by what they call blazing, or torch-light, and which they do in the following manner. When it grows dark, at or near a shallow part of the river, where, during November, December, and part of January, the fish are generally busy in making a bed for their spawn, four or five people meet, and having stripped the lower part of their body naked, and having a strong barbed hook, with a long handle, one carrying a large torch of lighted fir, split from the roots of trees found in moss, they instantly rush into the water, where the fish are busyand, whil e the fishes know not what do do, astonished at the sudden light, many of them are killed with the long barbed hooks. In many places of the Spey this is generally repeated several times of an evening; nay, sometimes, now and then, from four or five, when it grows dark, till day light next morning; as the fish that have escaped never fail, after some time, to return to their spawning again: and, though there is not a doubt that fish in this state are not only what is termed foul, but also unwholesome, yet they are eaten, and often sold at a high price, sometimes even a shilling the pound; and although, to the delicate and luxurious, it will appear a strange amusement, in a cold winter evening, to wade up to the neck in water and pieces of ice, yet certain it is, that those who once begin this amusement generally

grow fond of it, and that they seldom catch cold by it, but generally sleep sound, and find it a cure for the cold. It is true, this is most frequently done by young men, but it is also true that men of fifty, sixty, or even seventy, sometimes practise it, and come for miles in the coldest evenings, even in the midst of frost and snow, not so much for the profit as the pleasure this amusement affords.

On the banks of the Aven, a rapid river that runs through Glenaven, above noticed, into the Spey, on the east side, about twenty miles from its mouth at Fochabers, I found erected a carding, and preparations for a spinning machine. If the manufacture of flannels, and other woollen goods, were introduced into the Highlands, it might be the means of banishing that indolence and love of loitering about doing nothing, and preventing that spirit of emigration to America which has, of late, become so common, and which must continue to increase, unless some rational means, such as the introduction of manufactures, prevent it.

In the straths and glens in the Highlands, the land in many places is tolerably well ploughed, but in all miserably enclosed, and certainly not one twentieth part of it under the plough that might be under it. But the reason is obvious: for, as cattle fetch good prices, and they gain money with less trouble by tending them than by the laborious business of ploughing, harrowing, &c. so the Highlanders have seldom more ground under the plough than is absolutely necessary for their subsistence. The consequence is, that when a crop fails, which it sometimes does, particularly when the summer

happens to be cold, and rains and the winter sets soon in, or the snow in the spring continues long, that they themselves, and their cattle in the spring, are often in a state of famishment. It was, till very lately, a practice throughout the Highlands, to blood their cattle now and then for the sake of their blood; which, having boiled with a little oatmeal, they ate, to save their other provisions.

This, though little short of Abyssinian savageness, is certain beyond all doubt; nor is the practice in some parts of the Hebrides, Caithness, and Ross-shire, to this day wholly laid aside. It is not much above two hundred years, as we are informed by Buchanan, since the natives of the Hebrides ate raw flesh.

On the top of the Highland hills I not only saw ptarmagam, a kind of wild pheasant, though they are generally extremely shy, but also a variety of other beautiful birds, which we shot with water, not to spoil their plumage, and which will be found stuffed in the British Museum. If you shoot a little water from a musket at a horse's head, the suddenness and velocity with which it comes stuns him, and makes him fall down, though he soon recovers. So it is with birds: you should, therefore, run to them immediately when you shoot them with water, otherwise you will lose them.

It was, and still is a custom in many places in the Highlands, that whoever comes into a house after a person dies, and before such person is interred, as also after a child is born till it is baptized, must eat and drink in the house before they leave it. This

being the custom, to save expenses, and because they think it disrespectful to God to have an unbaptized child in the house, poor people generally have their children as soon baptized as possible. But it happened once to a poor man in this part of the country, that a river, as is often the case, ran between his house and the clergyman's, so that neither the poor man could get to the clergyman, nor the clergyman to the poor man's, in order to have the child baptized. The river was swoln by the gradual melting of the snow, and there was no bridge within twenty miles. The poor man's cheese, his bread, &c. was nearly expended; he, therefore, on the one side of the river, and the clergyman on the other, consulting what was to be done, agreed that the child should be brought to the river side; that the father, presenting the child, should take on the vows, as they term it, and the minister with a scoop, or Dutch ladle, should throw over the water: which was done, though with difficulty, owing to the breadth of the river; after which, the clergyman pronounced the name, prayed aloud, so as to be heard by the parent and his attendants on the other side, after which each went to their respective places perfectly satisfied with this new mode of baptism, and that, if the child died in infancy, it would go to heaven.

It is customary in the Highlands, as well as in most other parts of Scotland, to prevent parents becoming sponsors for their children, when baptized, if they lie under what is termed church censure. Mr. Macpherson, an extensive farmer in the High-

lands, not far from Loch Spey, being oftener tipsey than his friends could have wished, the minister threatened not to baptize any child for him, nor admit him to any church privilege, till he did penance for his improper conduct before the congregation. About the time when this misunderstanding took place between the minister and Mr. Macpherson, the farmer's wife was delivered of two fine boys; and, as it is customary to go to church and have their children baptized on Sunday, the farmer took his to have them baptized along with others he knew were to be there. I am sorry to say, that many of the Highlanders imagine that the virtue of baptism consists in the water after a blessing has been prayed for on it by the clergyman. The farmer was one of those. As there were that day several children to be baptized, the minister prayed as usual upon such occasions, that God would bless the element of water to be used, and accompany with an effectual blessing, the sacrament of baptism, about to be administered. When the farmer went up with his children, after the others, begging them to be baptized as the rest, and holding them on his arms, the minister refused, alleging he was under church scandal. The farmer, therefore, holding the children carefully with his left arm, put forth his right hand into the basin among the water, upon which a blessing had been prayed by the minister; and, sprinkling a little of it gently on each of his son's faces, said in Gaelic, "The one of you is named Duncan, and the other Donald, and the d—l another baptism ever ye shall have;" and then

making a bow to the minister, took them both home with him.

I was amazed to see how much the ministers in the interior of the Highlands are plagued with dogs in their churches. As almost every family has a dog, and some two, and as these dogs generally go with the people to church; so many dogs being collected often fight, and make such a noise during public worship, as not only disturbs the congregation, but endangers the limbs of many. I have seen more than twenty men plying with good cudgels, yet unable to separate a number of dogs fighting in a church. Nay, so much trouble do dogs give in some churches, that there is one appointed to go through the church-yard with a kind of long-handled forceps, which he holds out before him, and with which he wounds the tails, legs, and ears, &c. of the dogs, and thereby keeps the church and church-yard clear of these useful, but totally unnecessary animals in a place of public worship. Indeed, as these long-handled forceps have been found so useful in the Highlands, perhaps they might be of use in some other places; for ladies in too many places bring their lap-dogs to church, both on the north and south side of the Tweed. It often happens that a lady's lap-dog, running out and into her muff at church, and playing other antic tricks, draws more attention than the parson.

Perhaps in England, in some places, they are at much more pains in brushing and washing their churches than in purifying their hearts from wickedness; but, in some parts of Scotland, their churches are disgusting and shamefully dirty. I found a pa-

rish church on the banks of the Aven, which, though the parishioners meet in it every Sunday, has no door, scarcely a pane of glass in the windows, and at least a hundred holes in its roof. The truth is, calves, cattle, sheep, swine, &c. &c. lodge in it all night. In going to a kind of pew in it, I went over the feet, and positively in one place up to the calves of my legs in cow dung. The clergyman and presbytery can order a decent church to be built at the joint expense of the heritors, according to their valued rent; but as many of the heritors never go to church themselves, and the clergy have sometimes farms or other favours to ask for themselves and their friends, to save the heritors the expense of a new church, which now in general costs at least seven or eight hundred pounds, they put up with an old one, as the people also do to save the expense of driving materials to a church in inland parts, which they are obliged to do, as their part of the business. To a Gentoo, a Strathaven church, most copiously replenished and bespattered with cow dung, could not fail of appearing a very holy temple. In most parts of the Lowlands, however, and even in some of the Highlands, they begin to study decency, neatness, and even a degree of elegance, in their churches.

Ridiculous circumstances sometimes occur even in the most sacred places. As in Highland churches, in winter, the water in the font, or basin for baptism, is sometimes turned into ice in a short time, it is customary to bring in the water just before the baptizing begins.. The beadle of a church in the interior of the Highlands having forgot to bring in the water till the minister was proceeding to bap-

tize, ran out for it, but brought in some so warm, that the clergyman, having burnt his fingers, forgot himself, used some antic gestures with his hand, and interlarded the baptism of the child with an address to the beadle, threatening to come down and kick him out of the church.

Abraham, we are told, made a feast when his son Isaac was weaned; but, as was the case till lately in most parts of Scotland, in the Highlands it is still usual to make a feast when a child is baptized. Nay, so much does this custom prevail, that it is no uncommon thing to see people that are almost beggars having fifty or sixty people at dinner with them upon such occasions, others of better condition have more. However, those that attend generally send fowls, pieces of beef, mutton, butter, cheese, meal, whisky, tea, sugar, or something before them; so that such dinners, instead of causing expenses to the poor people, are generally an advantage, in the same way as their weddings are. Being invited to a baptism dinner while in the Highlands, I saw an hundred fowls at least, besides pieces of beef, mutton hams, which they call SPAGAN-DOW, or BLACK HAM, black indeed with smoke, all boiling in a large cauldron, with barley, rice, onions, &c.; and there were as many more with legs of mutton, hares, partridges, &c. stewed, or otherwise cooked in a different way from boiling. All this, with abundance of potatoes and greens, composed a dinner fit for a Highland laird, an English lord, or a German or French prince. But though feasts of this kind tend to enliven and cheer those hardy sons of the mountains, and to brighten the chain of friendship, yet they have this inconvenience, that

they generally occasion too much drinking. For instance, on the banks of the Spey, the other year, about twenty people, men and women, that had been at church on a week day to get a child baptized, upon going afterwards to the public-house to drink, as is customy, the child's health, actually lost the child on their way home, and could give no account of it. The truth is, the woman, who had the care of it, having sat down for a little by the way, laid down the child, and they being all tipsy, or, as the Greenlanders express it, having taken too much of the *mad* waters, forgot to take it up again; and, upon people being sent in quest of it, they found the child fast asleep, having got a good dose of punch, as they term it, to make the little fellow sleep while the clergyman was baptizing him. And, so indecent are they at funerals, that lately, on the borders of Badenoch, when crossing a bridge, having placed the coffin on the parapet of the bridge to rest themselves, though there were near two hundred of them, it fell over into the water, and was carried down a considerable way, while the friends, relations, and mourners, some on the one side, and some on the other of the river, went along with it, admiring how prettily it sailed. They would have allowed it to go farther, had not the coffin, upon coming to a stone, turned and gone on with the head first; which, as that was not the way they would have carried it, twenty or thirty fellows rushed into the stream, took it out, and carried it for some time, not observing that they themselves, like the water, were carrying it with the head first. Indeed, as disputes sometimes arise at funerals, it is no uncommon thing to see twenty

or thirty men fighting, some on horseback and some on foot, and the corps laid down on the road, till they see how the fray will end.

In the south of Scotland, not long ago, when carrying a corps to be interred, they were obliged to leave it in the snow, neither being able to carry it to the church-yard, nor home again; but so hardy are the Highlanders, that a circumstance of this kind scarcely ever happens; as they often force their way through snow up to their neck.

Though the itch was once very common in the Highlands, yet I seldom fell in with any affected with it; and found as good beds in many parts of it, as in the hotels and great inns in England.

The volunteers in the Highlands are a noble sight, and it gave me much pleasure to find, in almost every parish, hundreds of stout, hardy men, both old and young, not only well acquainted with the various military evolutions and branches of duty, but determined to defend not only the northern, but even to march to the southern parts of Britain, if any hostile foe dared to set a foot on it. It would have been dangerous, even fifty years ago, to have put arms into so many of the Highlanders hands, but there is no danger now; as they are, though not much attached to their chiefs, as much attached to their king and country, as any subjects in Britain.

I was astonished to find so many crows in the Highlands, till I learned that, at a certain season, they, with their young, from all quarters, repair to the hills, for the sake of the berries that grow on a low bush, often not so tall as the heath, and which are known by the name of crow-berries.

It is observed, that some species of the fig-tree

have two crops of fruit on them at once, and that the former year's fruit is not ripe, till the fruit of the succeeding year is not only fairly formed, but as large and heavy as when ripe. The juniper bushes, which are almost every where to be met with about the roots of the Highland hills, have this quality of the fig tree, and always two crops of berries on them; as also another small shrub somewhat similar to the crow-berries, but not near in such plenty.

From the Highland horses, which are extremely hardy and strong for their size, as well as other animals that go, as it were, wild in the hills, I am led to conclude that domestication is the sole cause of that diversity of colour, which appears among animals of the same species. Thus partridges, muir-fowl, magpies, sparrows, larks, linnets, thrushes, &c. &c. are, and always have been, of the same colour; but, when domesticated and left to the care of men, from a variety of causes, their young assume various colours. Ducks, when wild, we know, have all the same appearance; but, when tamed, their young become of various colours. Wild pigeons, in general, have all the same hue and colour. It is only in a domesticated state that they assume a different one. The same is the case with quadrupeds. It is well known that hares, foxes, rabbits, wolves, lions, leopards, bears, wild cats, wild asses, &c. &c. have all nearly the same colour; but domesticate them, and, while you oblige them to see the labours of man, and prevent them from often seeing the country in an uncultivated state, by degrees their young assume a thousand variegated appearances. The horses and cattle that run wild in the hills, as also in

the Orkneys, Shetland, and Western Isles, are all nearly of the same colour, which is for the most part that of hares, foxes, deer, and other wild animals: and there is not a doubt, but were all the horses, cows, dogs, cats, cocks, hens, &c. &c. that assume ten thousand different colours among men, to be turned out into the muirs and mountains, and suffered to run wild, their young would, in the course of years, become what their progenitors were, of a brown heath colour. The truth is, heath, which is here the ground, or leading colour in the garb of nature, being more than any other presented to the imagination of quadrupeds and fowls in a certain state, may be the reason that brown, or the colour of heath, and a hill at a few miles distance, is the leading feature in the colour of most fowls and animals in an undomesticated state. Upon the same principle it is, that there is not such an infinite variety in the countenances of Indian tribes, and men in a state of nature, as in polished nations. The Swiss, the Highlanders, the Africans, the Laplanders, the Hottentots, the Tartars, the Esquimaux Indians, the Chinese, &c. and even the people in different districts of the same country, that do not intermarry nor mingle much with others, are also a proof of what is here stated.

In many parts of the Highlands, it is difficult to persuade the farmers, that, in moist soils, stones lying on the surface are disadvantageous to a crop, and to the growth of both grass and grain. And it is a certain fact, that a farmer on the banks of the Spey, who had been persuaded by Mr. Johnston, who published Elkinton on Draining, to collect and drive off a number of stones from the surface of several

fields, brought them all back and scattered them on it again; as he insisted that his crops were much worse than before the stones were taken away. But, as the soil was damp, he would have ameliorated his fields much more, had he cut trenches in the dampest places; and, filling these with the stones, made what is called covered drains with them. Either government, or the proprietors of the greater part of Scotland, should put into the hands of each of the farmers, some plain treatise on agriculture, pointing out, among many other things, how much the climate, as well as the soil of a country, is altered and bettered by draining, enclosing, and other operations of the husbandman.

I amused myself, one day, in the woods of Glenmore, belonging to the duke of Gordon, in observing how they float wood down the river Spey, from this and many other places on its banks. The float formerly was guided by a man sitting on a very small vessel, not altogether unlike to the idea I have of the India catamaran, called a *courach*. This vessel was of an oval shape, about four feet long, and three broad; with a small keel from head to stern; a few ribs across the keel, and a ring of pliable wood round the lip of it; and the whole covered with the rough hide of an ox or horse. The rower sat on a transverse seat in the middle, holding in his hand a rope, the end of which was tied to the float. With the other hand he managed a paddle, kept the float in deep water, and brought it to shore when he pleased.

Many thousand pounds worth of wood, chiefly fir and birch, are annually floated down this river. The fir, in spars of twelve, twenty, and sometimes

thirty feet long, and many thousands only ten feet, being carried to Sunderland, are let down into the coal-pits, and placed at proper distances below, to support the weight of the earth, when the pillars of coal have been digged. Hundreds of these floats, following one another, guided by a man on each end, go down at the rate, when the river is a little swoln, of sometimes ten miles an hour, and are landed at its mouth.

It is curious to observe the various methods of mourning in different parts of the world. When the Persians mourn, they are dressed in white; it was customary on extraordinary occasions, when the Grecians mourned, to shave their heads; and when a certain city was taken, the Athenians, we are informed, not only shaved their heads, but took an oath not to let their hair grow till the city was retaken. When the Highlanders mourn, they set the bag-pipes a playing, and begin to dance, drink, and be merry, from an idea that the deceased is gone to a happier country.

A number of young people generally meet in the evening, and continue in the same room with the corps. At such wakes, every kind of amusement is carried on, and the bag-pipes sometimes play all the way before the corps to the grave. Nor is any person permitted to depart from a house where there is a dead person, without eating and drinking; and so hard do they generally drink upon such occasions, that, in one point of view, they may be said to drown their sorrow.

Many of the people in the Highlands firmly believe in the prescience, or presensation of magpies. While I was at breakfast onemorning with a worthy

clergyman, to whom I had been introduced by letter, the servant came in, holding up her hands in a praying attitude, saying, "The Lord prepare us all for death; there will be two dead persons in this house before a month." Our eyes were all immediately turned toward the maid, and, I confess, my teeth, as well as most of the young peoples at the table, which were going when the maid came in, immediately, as it were, ceased to move of their own accord, at the first word uttered by the maid. When the good old parson, whose teeth were neither so good nor many as they once had been, had masticated sufficiently what was in his mouth, turning to the maid, he said, "How know you that two of us are to be dead ere a month?" "Oh, sir, a magpie alighted upon and tore one of your shirts, and that gentleman's there, pointing to me, and I am sure that mischief will follow." The old man smiled, and looked at me. Though neither this good old man nor I died, as was prophesied by the maid, yet she still believed in the fore-knowledge of the magpie, as a poor man in the neighbourhood died, and his friends having asked that day a shirt from the clergyman, to be put on him in his grave, the shirt on which the magpie, by accident, had alighted, was the one given to be put on the poor man.—It sooths some of the religious poor to think that they are to lie in their graves in a clergyman's shirt.

As there are pretenders to the second sight, which the better sort of people do not altogether discourage, as it sometimes induces those that steal to return the goods, lest they should be discovered, so there are, in the Highlands, quacks and pretenders, even yet, to prevent witchcraft, enchantments, and barren-

ness in women. There is a Mr. Willox, near Tamintoul, a man of some information, and who always wears scarlet clothes, that pretends he possesses this art; and, I am sorry to hear, is not unfrequently applied to. For instance, a man named Stuart, on the banks of the Spey, who had been married nine years, and had no children, went to the said Willox, and laid down his guinea, the ordinary fee. Willox, having a large black pebble of a curious shape, which he keeps in an elegant gold and silver box, and which he says came from Italy, being handed down to him from his grandfather, took it, went out to a well, near his house, brought in about half an English gallon of water; and, with the pebble or stone in his hand, moved the water quickly, several times: then, saying the Lord's prayer three times, in Latin, and other Latin prayers, which, as he is a Roman Catholic, he can do, he bottled up the water, desired the man to say his prayers regularly every evening, and give his wife three wine glasses of this water at bed time, and there was no fear. The man did so, and actually, I am assured, has had a child every other year since. This seems to exceed the miracle of what made so great a figure in advertisements in London newspapers, some years ago, of the nine times died blue flannel. If what is affirmed in the case of this woman be true, it is, no doubt, to be sat down among the wonderful effects of imagination.

A respectable farmer also, more than forty miles from Tamintoul, whose wife had lingered for years, without any physician being able, and many were tried, to discover what was the matter with her, was at length persuaded by his neighbours, that she was

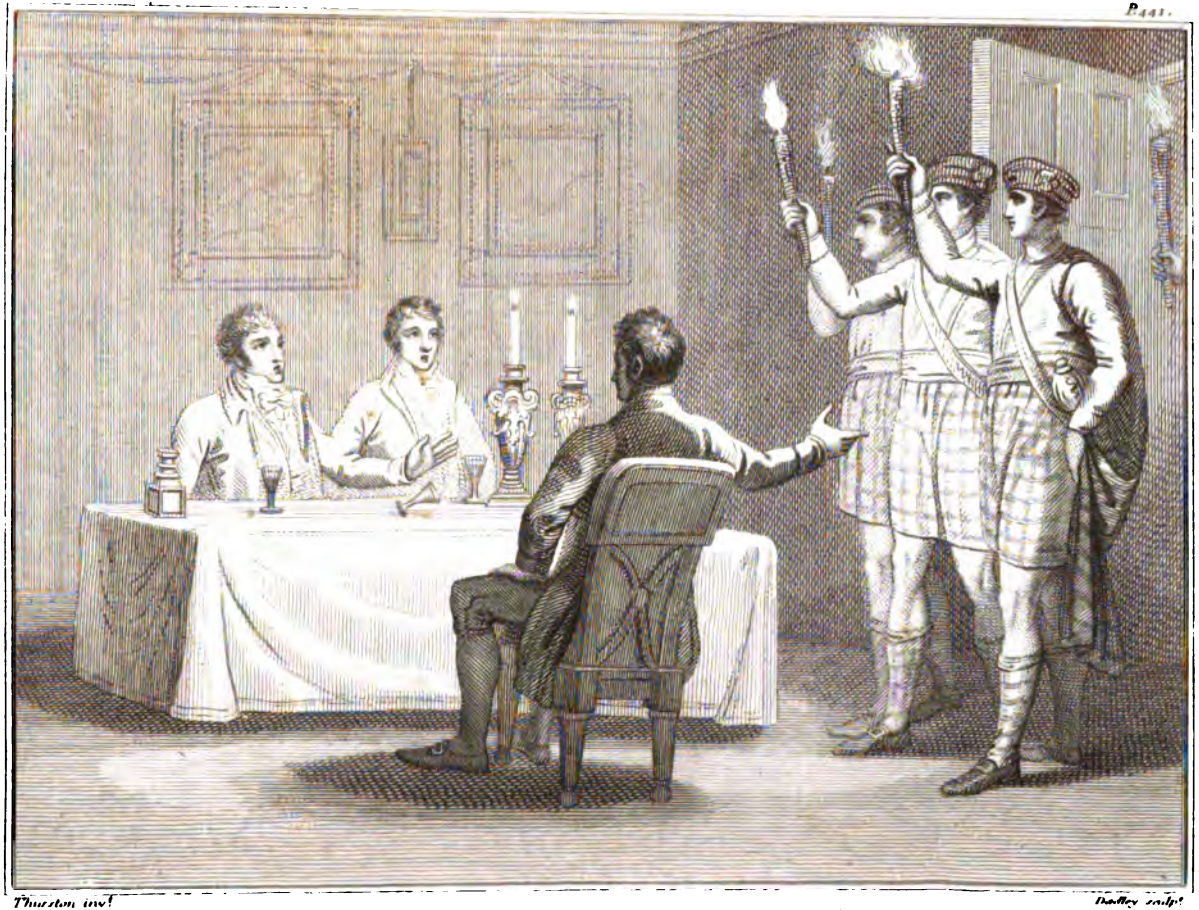
witched, as they term it. Nay, they teased him so much, that, to prevent his neighbours saying he did not care whether his wife was cured or not, he sent for Willox, paid him a guinea, and all expenses. When Willox came, in his scarlet coat, breeches, &c. he perambulated the house, garden, barns, &c. frequently standing and holding out his nose, as if to smell where the witchcraft was lodged. At length he pretended he had discovered it; and, running hastily, put his hand into a hole of the wall of the house, and pulled out a fowls stomach, broiled and cut into certain bits, which he said had been put there by some person, in concert with the devil. The poor woman, it seems, got a little better; and, so credulous was the farmer, as well as his neighbours, as to believe that Willox cured her.

Pedlars, or travelling merchants, introduce every article of dress into the Highlands, and find here a good market; the people often having plenty of money, from the high price they receive for their cattle, sheep, &c. And it is not a little curious, that the head dress and fancy wigs, sold by perfumers and fancy dress makers, in London and Paris, are exactly of the form in which the young women in the Highlands of Scotland have dressed their heads these many years. The gowns and petticoats worn by the Highland, are nearly the same stuff as those worn by the Welch girls; only in the Highlands they are generally a kind of tartan, whereas in Wales they are generally a kind of striped stuff.

Though the introduction of the arts be highly calculated to improve a people, and the Highlands of Scotland have been gradually improved by them ever since the year 1748, when government dis-

covered the true method of civilizing the Highlands, and making them a national advantage; yet, till this took place, the progress of the arts and refinement was extremely slow. As a proof of this, there is a floor at Castle Grant, in tolerable soundness, made solely by the axe, and before the use of the saw was introduced into the Highlands. Nay, at Elchies, not a dozen of miles from the mouth of the Spey, in the house belonging to Charles Grant, Esq. there is a stair in that wing which was originally a castle, the wood of which seems to have been put there, without having been touched by a saw.

Among the better sort of people, tallow candles and oil lamps, as well as wax candles, are sometimes used; but, as it is not only cheaper, and gives a better light, many, upon ordinary occasions, use only pieces of fir, split thin, from the roots of trees, found in the mosses; which, from the great quantity of the resinous and inflammable matter they contain, give excellent light. It is the business of the young people in the house to prepare and hold these candles, one of which, affording near as much light as a torch, generally serves all in any one room of the house. Agreeably to this notion, when a rich man in London lately was extolling the candlesticks on the table, which were of massy silver, elegantly carved; a gentleman from Strathspey, being present, said, that these were not near so valuable as the candlesticks in many parts of the Highlands of Scotland. A thousand guineas were immediately laid, that there were not better, nor more valuable than these, in all the Highlands. The gentleman, who held the bet, was allowed a sufficient time for the candlesticks to be brought to London, for in-



Thurston inv.t

Dadley sculp.t

Highland Candlesticks the last

spection, and proof that they had been used in the Highlands previously to the staking the thousand guineas. When the evening of the day arrived, that the Highland candlesticks were to be inspected, four uncommonly handsome young men, in elegant Highland dresses, unexpectedly entered the room with blazing torches of fir in their hand. It was universally agreed, that these were the candlesticks used in the Highlands, and those referred to when the bet was laid, and also that they were the most valuable. The gentleman, therefore, who proposed it, lost the bet.

We are told that two bull-dogs, in the days of James I. of England, killed one of the fiercest lions in the tower of London, and, I am of opinion, that two or three of the shepherds curs, in the Highlands, would do the same. So fierce and hardy are they, while at the same time so faithful, that, like the dog mentioned by Ossian, which continued three whole days in the hills with his master after he was killed, they sometimes continue two or three days in the hills without eating or drinking, or giving the least signs of wishing to leave him and them; thereby confirming the truth of Dr. Goldsmith's remark, that many who call themselves christians are less faithful to their creator than some dogs are to their master.

Till about forty or fifty years ago, bundling, or a young man and woman being put to bed together by their parents, was very common; but such were the customs and manners of the country, that if the woman was with child, the man was reckoned a scoundrel, and none would have any dealings with him if he did not marry her. On the other hand, if there was no child in the case, they dissuaded him

from marrying, and thought there was no harm done. Something of this kind is prevalent in most countries newly colonized and but thinly inhabited, and exists in this part of the country, in some degree, to this day; for, if a girl is with child by a man, he is, as it were, and I think justly, despised, if he does not marry her. And I think the conduct of the Highlanders in this respect more consonant to sound reasoning and polished manners, than that of those who, though they pretend to be Christians, men of feeling, and so forth, make no scruple of associating with the wretch (for I think he is no other,) who, by the force of money, or false promises, has seduced an innocent female; and who, while they, at the very time they act thus to the man, would avoid and disregard her who is undoubtedly, in the eyes of God and of every good man, the more excusable of the two. Indeed, notwithstanding our refinement in manners, and improvement in knowledge, yet, in some instances, our conduct to the fair sex is shameful and base; and the laws of our country are, in one point of view, extremely defective. Blackstone remarks, in his Commentary on the Laws of England, that two men were hanged for robbing a man of three farthings. If a man steals one of my horses, my cows, my sheep, or of my bank notes, he is hung up by the neck, and kicked out of the world. If he steals my dog, my cat, or pocket handkerchief, or a few of my apples, it is ten to one but he gets a jaunt to Botany Bay. If he comes and steals my daughter's or any of my female relation's virtue, be she the darling of my soul, the object of my fondest wishes, the sharer of my

declining years, and of infinitely more importance both to her and me than all I have in the world, yet it is ten to one if this robber of my all is scouted out of one company on account of his conduct, or my daughter ever again admitted into any respectable society.

The sheep-walks in the Highlands, particularly of late, that sheep have brought so high a price, have become an excellent concern. A gentleman in Badenoch, who has only a part of one, I have the best information, netts at least six hundred pounds a year by it. Some of these sheep-walks are from twelve to twenty miles long, and nearly as broad; and this vast extent of sheep-walks, swallowing up in one a number of families, is the reason why the population in the Highlands is decreasing, emigration every day taking place, and all the wealth of the country concentrating in a few monopolizing overgrown individuals.

It is obvious, that the Roman Catholic clergy's being obliged to go to Rome, upon many occasions, for ordination, tended much, in the dark ages, to improve the kingdoms of Europe, as they generally introduced into the places where they were settled the improvements they saw on their way to and from Rome. In like manner, the clergy, being obliged to attend at the present day, some one of the universities, and their going once in four or five years to the general assembly at Edinburgh, has not only a tendency to open their own eyes, as to the improvement of their glebes, &c. but also to enable them to open the eyes of others to such improvement. Whatever be the cause, one thing is cer-

tain, that the clergy in the Highlands are extremely useful, not only in a religious, but in a civil point of view; for as they have, in general, small farms attached to their glebes, and which, being in the centre of the parish, are frequently seen by the parishioners when they come to church, so it generally happens that the new improvements in farming, implements of husbandry, &c. are introduced and tried by them, which, if successful, is well, and, attached as the people too often are to old customs and opinions, are generally adopted; but if unsuccessful, as the clergy do not depend for a living on farming, they are able to bear it.

All over the Highlands they seem to prefer stone fences to any other; and this is a fortunate circumstance: for, as many parts are stony, the stones removed to the edges of the fields serve to build the fence; and thus stone fences serve a double purpose, not only to keep cold places warm, and consume the stones, but also to fence round and divide one field from another. The Highland clergy, observing these advantages, have many of them been at much pains in improving their glebes and farms, where it could be done, and their conduct in this point of view does them much credit; as, where their example is followed, the farmers themselves not only reap the advantage, but the value of land is increased to the proprietor, and the face of the country beautified and rendered more fruitful, as well as the climate ameliorated.

The clergy also in general attend to the article of draining: a matter of much importance in cold damp soils, and sometimes advantageous in another

point of view, inasmuch as where covered drains are adopted, and, which is often the case, more stones are found in a field than are necessary to build the fences, these drains serve to occupy the surplus stones, and consequently, to save the expense and trouble of carrying them to a greater distance. Hedges, no doubt, beautify a country, but then they frequently require topping, thickening, cleaning, weeding, &c.; and it is often also many years after they are planted before they become a fence, and when grown they sometimes harbour such numbers of birds as become destructive to the grain. Besides, though a stone fence fall, the materials being at hand, they can easily, at any time, be put up again.

The military spirit of the Highlanders is well known; and the courage of the forty-second regiment, which was first raised on the banks of the Spey, to suppress a numerous banditti that had laid the country under contribution, and is generally recruited from the Highlands, was not only conspicuous of late on the banks of the Nile, when combating Buonaparte's invincible legion, as he styled it, but upon many other occasions.

Having traversed the south-eastern banks of the Spey, from its mouth to its source, I turned north and east, following its course on its opposite banks, on my way to the lower parts of Murray, till I arrived at Elchies, on the north-west banks of the Spey, and about fifteen miles from Elgin. I staid there some time, where I found both Mrs. Grant and her husband, the proprietor, extremely hospitable,

intelligent, and attentive to me. I observed one day, while there, a transmigration of eels in the river. When I first observed them, it was about one in the afternoon of a Sunday. How long the eels had been transmigrating before I know not. They continued making their way up the river all that day till about eight in the evening, when it grew dark. They began again early next morning, but how long before five I cannot say. They continued to migrate for three whole days after I observed them, with only an interval of a few hours in the night. They kept as near the north-west edge of the river as they could; and, when there were bays the edge of it, they went regularly round these, whether great or small. They were about ten abreast, and each eel about three and one-half inches long: they marched at regular distances, which might be about four, or rather three and one-half feet. There were stronger ells as a guard, and generally about five or six inches long. I observed the smallest and weakest ones always kept nearest the edge, where the current was least. From an accurate calculation a hundred passed every minute, making six thousand per hour.

They proceeded at this rate for three days, from about half an hour before the sun rose till about half after he set, making about sixteen hours each day, in all about forty-eight hours, which, multiplied by the six thousand that passed every hour, make two hundred and eighty-eight thousand, most of which I saw pass; but whence they came, or what they were in quest of, I know not. They did not stay for one another, but each made the best of its

way, wriggling with the utmost celerity; and when I pushed any of them farther into the river, they always came to the edge as fast as they could. Not one but had its head up the water. They seemed to be in great haste, and breathing hard, as small bubbles of air often rose up to the surface; and when, having caught any of then, I turned its head downward, so as to swim with the current, it would not, but with all the expedition in its power joined its new companions, and wriggled on along with them. As I could not be always there, I appointed others to watch their motions, and I found, though I could not see exactly how they acted, that, during the time it was beginning to grow dark, by a kind of signal, they all at once hid themselves in the sand or mud for miles at the same instant, and seemed not only under the command, but the protection of the larger ones, that, like officers, commanded them. Indeed, I saw sometimes large eels from twelve to fifteen inches long, making up the water now and then, about three or four yards farther towards the middle of the river, and about five-and-twenty yards behind one another; but whether they where connected with the general emigration I know not, though I rather suppose they were, as they were never above twelve or thirteen feet from the small eels, and often seemed to turn an anxious look towards their young friends. The young ones, as they were near the edge, were seldom an inch below the surface. Those about five or six inches long might be between one and two inches below the surface, being in deeper water, and the large eels went at a much greater velocity than the small ones. But, if they had any connection, or

care of the small fry, they must sometimes have stopt short, or slackened their pace. I have seen the horse and foot guards reviewed by his majesty, &c. &c. in Hyde Park, and ten thousand men performing the same action at the same instant of time; but the eels in the river Spey kept their ranks as regularly, and seemed to be as subservient to the greater ones, as any of the corps at a review are to the command of their officers.

There are sometimes, it seems, astonishing migrations of eels in the river St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, &c. &c. in North America, which, when large, they catch by hundreds at a time, and stack up, when dried, with other fishes, as winter provision for them and their cattle. The truth is, cows, horses, sheep, &c. &c. eat fish in winter on the banks of the Mississippi, Ohio, &c. as well as about the northern parts of Kentucky and the back settlements.

In the Highlands, and all along the banks of the Spey, they have a cruel way of catching eels and other fishes, by what they call set lines. One end of these being fastened to the bank by a stake, after affixing a weight and lines, hooks, &c. to the middle of the line, they throw it into the water; and when they come to draw it, which they generally do some hours after, they find the poor fishes struggling to get free. But there is a better, at least a more humane method of fishing for eels, and that is, to put into the middle of a parcel of hay or straw any garbage that attracts them; and, having sunk this in the water with a rope and a stone, afterwards to pull it out suddenly, when the eels will generally be found in the middle of the

straw among the garbage, and may be killed instantly without keeping them in pain.

When at Elchies, I went to see Tauperindonish, an excellent well in the middle of a small wood near the house, with a considerable swamp near it, caused by the perpetual flowing of water from the well. When clearing away this swamp one winter, which was done by Mrs. Grant's order, (who suggested and set on foot many excellent improvements both without and within doors), the workmen found in it thousands of thousands of frogs frozen together, which they drove away in carts, and which seemed lifeless and void of feeling, but when put near the fire, began to give symptoms of life, then to open their eyes, and at length to hop off in excellent spirits.

One day, dining at Carron, one of the estates belonging to Charles Grant, esq. of Elchies, with a well-informed man, he told me, that, about five years ago, having leisure for observation, he began to suspect, that, among geese, a gander having once chosen a partner, continues year after year to choose the same, unless something comes in the way to prevent such choice. Anxious to ascertain this fact, he marked with care five, and found, that for the three succeeding years, during which he attended to them, each gander annually chose the companion he had had the former year, and continued faithful to her. Some of the geese in his flock he found near thirty years of age; and he told me, he had the best information, that a gander, which happened to be killed by accident a few years before, belonging to this flock, was above eighty, and had been observed, for above fifty years, to associate

only with one female, which happened to be killed about twenty years before. I was the more apt to believe this, that it is well known that pigeons, turtle doves, &c. having once paired, continue, in general, faithful to one another, till death or accident separate them; and that the survivor, as is the case among crows, which are in general long-lived, as Pliny observes, often dies of grief for his lost mate. A gentleman in the company asked if I knew how far sea fowls, eagles, partridges, and the singing tribes, continue faithful to the companions of their former years, when they meet in the spring. I told him I could not, but informed him that there is a goose alive at a clergyman's house near Glasgow *one hundred and twenty years old*, it being allowed to live about the house, and become the property of every succeeding clergyman there.

It is observed, that the duration of the life of animals generally bears some proportion to the time between their conception and birth; but, in nature, there are a thousand variations from this general rule; and, indeed, it is a question with me whether there be any propriety in it. However, the duration of the life of some animals is astonishing. Elephants live sometimes from two to three hundred years. Ulysses, upon his return to Ithaca, though he had been twenty years absent, found his dog alive. An ass died lately in Carisbrook Castle, in the Isle of Wight, that had been there about fifty years. The widow of a warm shopkeeper in Southwark thought this ass, which was employed in drawing water from a profound well there, so great a curiosity, that for some years, and while she remained a wi-

dow, she absolutely went every year to the Isle of Wight, chiefly, as she declared, to see the ass.

A land tortoise was killed lately by accident in the garden, at Lambeth, belonging to the archbishop of Canterbury, by the gardener, that had lived in it since the days of archbishop Laud. A hawk, only a very few years ago, was killed on the rocks, near Bergen, in Norway, with a ring on its leg that indicated it had belonged to Louis XIV. of France. A sea fowl, that had once been tame about a farmer's house bordering on the Solway Firth, disappeared, that had visited it year after year regularly for forty years. Toads and other animals have been found in the heart of planks and blocks of marble, where they must have lived for generations without either food or drink. Indeed, that toads can live a long time without either is now beyond a doubt. A number of people, the other year, at Glasgow, tried the experiment. On Christmas-day, having found a toad, they dug a hole in the ground six feet deep, put the animal in an iron pot, and then burying it in the ground, went away till that day twelve months, when they and many others assembled to see if the toad was alive. Upon digging and opening the pot, which they had carefully covered over with a sheet of white iron, they found the toad alive and healthy, and not the least mark of filth or fœces about it, but every thing sweet and clean, as when they put him into it. They were afraid, that, upon being exposed suddenly to the open air after his long and close confinement, he might be ill. However, he was not; for, being taken carefully out, he looked about him, hopped off,

and all, with one consent, agreed to give him his liberty.

From a minute examination of Badenoch and the upper parts of the counties of Aberdeen, Bamff, and Murray, which in many parts are cold, bleak, and damp, and, in general, about four or five hundred feet higher than any other cultivated land in Britain, we have a striking proof, among thousands of the same kind, that this globe has once been completely under water. At an elevation of from twelve to thirteen hundred feet above the level of the sea, I found, in the face of a rising ground, from which materials had been carried away for repairing the roads, fifteen different strata in the depth of four feet perpendicular: some of these of sand, others of clay and mud, loam, &c.; one of them of shells and sand, and another a sediment of moss and other vegetable substance; and all of them seemed to indicate that the ground, even in this elevated situation, had been one day completely covered with water, if not at the bottom of the ocean. This curious phenomenon may be found also on a rising ground, a little south-west from the parish church of Knockand, on the lands belonging to the proprietor of Elchies.

While traversing the hills in the upper parts or Murrayshire, I found one of those pieces of flint called arrow heads. It was shaped nearly like a heart, was extremely sharp, and had a neat handle, about half an inch long, for sticking it into the wooden arrow. I had seen several of these before, which the common people call elfs darts, but none of them neater, nor better calculated for pier-

ing than this. They seem to have been used by our forefathers, before the use of iron was known; and, upon being fixed to the point of an arrow, are admirably calculated for penetrating and sticking fast, as this one, with some others I have seen, was barbed like a fish-hook. Bidding adieu to the good old squire and his lady at Elchies, into whose company it was impossible to go without coming away wiser, I set out for

ROTHES,

which is a small village, beautifully situated on the banks of the Spey, and which contains a colony of masons, who live here with their families in winter, and generally, in the spring, set out all at once in quest of employment, some to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, and sometimes, near a hundred of them, to the Hebrides, or Western Isles, where, for many years past, it has been fashionable for even poor people to lay out often all the money they have on the walls of a house.

The castle of Rothes, which is now almost level with the ground, was the seat of the once famous duke of Rothes: and here Norman Leslie, who was active in cutting off cardinal Beaton at St. Andrews, was born. Here, too, Leslie, the commander of the Scotch Covenanter's army, and whose four daughters were married to the most respectable men in Scotland, was brought up as a poor boy in the kitchen; and, notwithstanding the figure he made, it is next to certain that he could not, to the day of

his death, either read or write. Indeed, learning in former times was not a thing very common. There are many papers, both in London and Paris, marked with a cross for the signing of a name, with this circumstance added to it: Quoniam Archiepiscopus scribere nesciat; that is, because the archbishop cannot write.

About half a mile south, and west from the old castle of Rothes, and not far from the Spey, where water carriage to the sea could be procured without much expense, I found, on a rising ground, an immense bed of a beautiful stone, which seems to be a species of agate. It is somewhat transparent, and its colour is between the white flint and the crystal stone; but then there are beautiful veins of red and purple to be found in almost every square inch of it. As there is plenty of fuel in this neighbourhood, and water to drive machinery, this elegant mineral, if not calculated for more important purposes, might, I should suppose, be ground down, by mills, to a fine powder, and then converted into beautifully streaked china of a thousand different appearances, which would certainly be as transparent, light, and beautiful, as any in the world. If I mistake not, it might be attended with highly benefical consequences, if some person or persons, well acquainted with minerals and metals, would take a view of this, as well as other parts both of Murray and Bamffshire. Pearl oysters have been found in the Spey. Precious stones are sometimes found washed down from Cairngorum, in Strathspey; and there are some symptoms of coals, as well as other valuable mineral substances

Eton

to be found in this part of the country, as well as about Huntley.

In my way from Rothes to Elgin, observing a tolerably looking parish-church thatched with straw, and having inquired why it was not slated like others, I was informed, that the parish, being small, had been divided and attached to others, but that the parishioners, irritated at this, and determined not to suffer their parish church, which they thought their property, to be demolished, had actually stoned the man who first attempted to pull it down; and who, being chased by the women, was drowned in the Spey in attempting to avoid their fury. Several of the women were tried for murder and sedition; but, owing to some mistake in the indictment, they got off; and the church, being permitted to stand, is now occupied by dissenters, who, instead of instructing the people, fill their heads with levelling notions respecting government and fanaticism.

Upon my arrival at Elgin, the chief town in Murray, which is beautifully situated on the banks of the Lossie, and may contain about three thousand inhabitants, I went to see the ruins of the cathedral, which, though not the most extensive, are the most entire of any in Scotland, those of Arbroath excepted. The west entrance and the wall at the east end are mostly entire. The grand steeple near the centre, above two hundred feet high, fell, many years ago, very unexpectedly, with a dreadful crash.

The people in England would be surprised to find how mild the winters in general are here. I myself saw a moss rose, nearly blown, which grew in the open air in Elgin, and had been plucked on the

twelfth day of January. There are excellent clubs, as they are termed, and funds in this place, as indeed now in most towns and villages in Scotland, for the support of the widows and children of deceased members, as well as of decayed members themselves. The laws and bye-laws of these institutions are in general excellent, and not only have already done, but promise to do much good. There is also a certain sum given to the widow when her husband dies, and she has an annuity for life; in some institutions ten, in others twenty, and in some of them thirty pounds sterling.

There are also tontines in various towns and villages in Scotland, but I do not know that it is common with gentlemen in Scotland, as it is in England and Ireland, to raise money among their tenants and others, by way of tontine, to improve their estates. Could Scotch proprietors, who have much outfield and improveable land, and not much money to spare, be induced to adopt this method, it might be attended with highly beneficial consequences to themselves, and the country at large; as it is certain that the money they would borrow, as a tontine, at ten per cent. upon being laid out in improving their waste lands, (such lands being security for the annuity to the lenders), might fetch twenty per cent. at least. Thus, if ten men lend me one thousand pounds at ten per cent. per annum, and I pay a hundred pounds a year to ten, to nine, to eight, seven, or any number of them, so long as any of them shall live, if this thousand pounds laid out on my waste ground, which there is no doubt but it will do, produce one hundred pounds yearly more

than it otherwise would have done, at the death of the last of them, I, or my heirs, are a hundred a year richer than we should have been; and so on in proportion; and the lenders were well paid for their money.

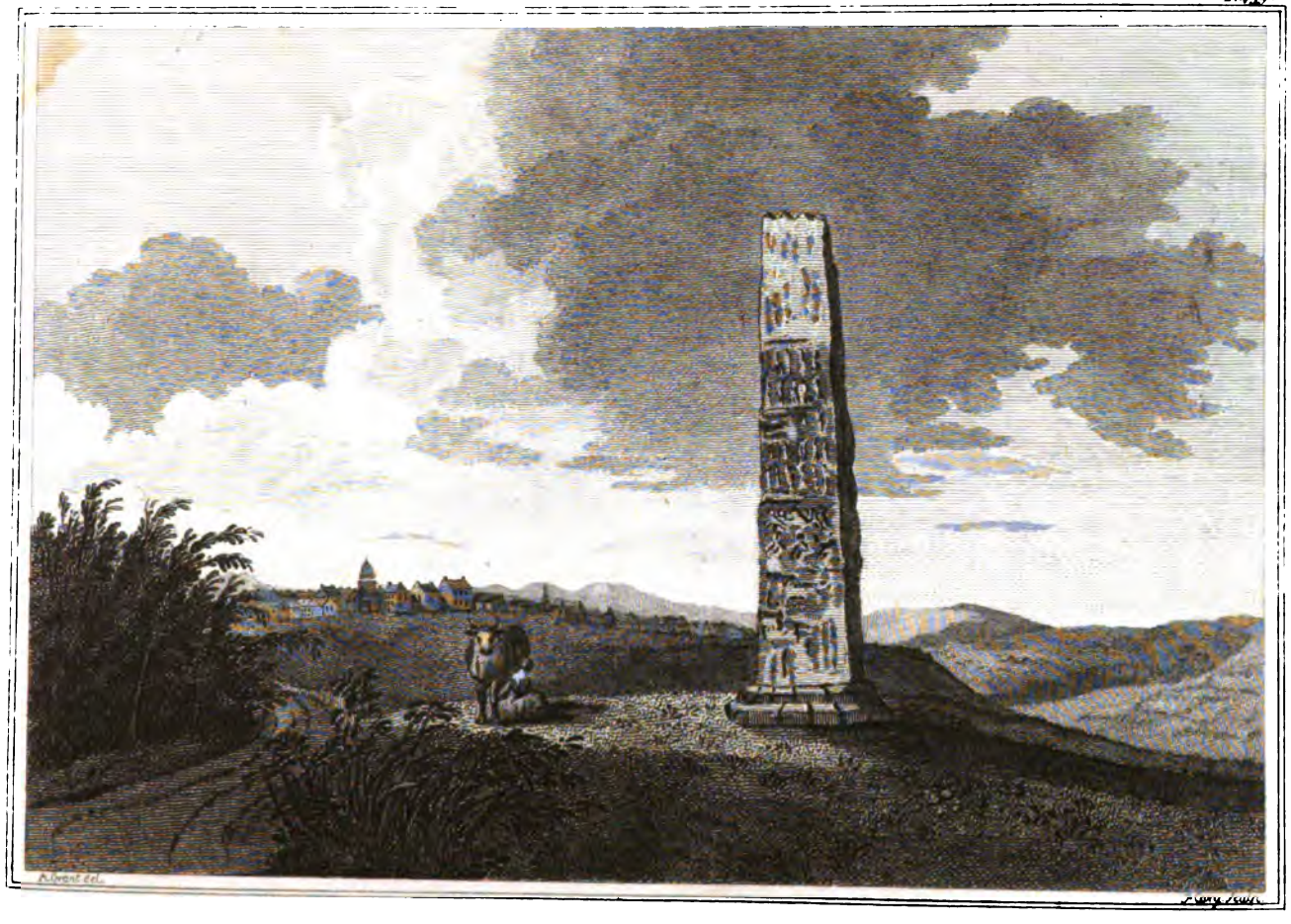
In former times, this county, which is fertile, and, in general, notwithstanding its increased population, exports, at a medium, twenty thousand bolls of grain, or about fifteen hundred quarters annually, was much exposed to the depredations of the chieftains and great lords, particularly of the Gordons; these chieftains, to be revenged of their enemies, often setting fire to that part of the town belonging to their enemies, and their corn fields. To prevent such mischief, often done in the heat of passion, it was judged prudent that the Gordons and their opponents should not, as formerly, each live in a separate part of the town, but that they should live promiscuously, and have their ground, as they termed it, *ridge about;* which means alternate ridges, and which prevented the clans from burning cornfields, as they could not burn those of their enemies without burning those of their friends. There are borough, and many village lands both in the north and south of Scotland, whose names, situations, and rights, evidently refer to this antient but barbarous custom.

I was astonished to find the roads in many parts of Murray so bad, and that turnpikes have not been introduced into it, as into most of the other counties to the southward; but the reason seems to be that Murray, being a low-lying country, and generally a sandy bottom, they are afraid, were they to have turnpikes, that, as the sand blows here fre-

quently, these roads, by being blown over with sand, would, after having saddled the county with considerable expense, not be better than they are. They have, however, it seems, the matter under consideration, and have got a new and a much better line of road pointed out, by an experienced surveyor; but here, I find, the matter rests.

In this part of the country, as well as many others, not only near, but at a distance from the sea-coasts, agriculture is studied as a science; and every possible method tried to render the earth productive. However, as the farmers here often mix pure sand with the dung, and spread it on the ground, even though the soil be sandy, I should like to know what good purpose it can serve to scatter sand on land that has too much sand on it already.

At a sale by auction, in Elgin, I was not a little surprised to hear the auctioneer, using gross and low wit, and not only immodest, but extremely immoral expressions; which, however pleasing they might be to low grovelling minds, and advantageous to the person whose goods were on sale, were a disgrace in a civilized country, and disagreeable, I think I may venture to say, to nine-tenths of the females present. I saw several of them blushing at his expressions, and actions, which, in a public officer, if not appointed, at least approved of, by the magistrates, appeared equally shocking and surprising. Drollery and gentle satire may be permitted in an auctioneer, but immoral and indecent expressions, in a public character, are shameful in the extreme. Bad as too many of the people in London are, they would have hissed him, and showered rotten eggs at his head.



Forres. Sweno's Stone.

Though the arts and the sciences are studied here with as much attention, perhaps, as any where in Scotland, and improvements in almost every art made daily, yet a surgical operation was required from the medical men here, that they would not perform. In some cases, it seems, the side is opened, and certain operations performed on the lungs, &c. This, like the cæsarean operation, ought to be the last resource; and, certainly, ought not to be tried, if it can possibly be avoided. The surgeons here refused to perform any operation of this kind, on a certain person that applied to them for that purpose; and, before the surgeon arrived from Edinburgh to perform this nice, I should rather have said dangerous, experiment, the patient was dead, and I think better for the surgeon than if he had died under his hands.

When at Forres, which is a small burgh, beautifully situated not far from the sea, and which may be styled the Montpelier of this part of Scotland, I went to see Sweno's stone, a monument erected by the road side, consisting of a single stone on its end, with a variety of figures of horses and men in armour. This stone is fifteen feet above ground, and eight below. Tradition says, it was erected on the final expulsion of the Danes from this part of Scotland. It is the most entire, as well as the most curious, to be found in Britain; but how, or by what means, the men in those days, could either carry or erect a stone of such enormous weight, is more than I can comprehend.

There are fools to be found every where. Upon observing a neat house, beautifully situated in the

midst of trees, and having a delightful prospect at the west end of Forres, and thinking the man must be happy who dwells there, I was informed that it was named Birds-yards; that it was lately sold by a young man, to whom it was left by his father, with a considerable estate attached to it; that, in the course of a few years, the young man, though he had received a liberal education, had spent near twenty thousand pounds sterling; that, being reduced from keeping his carriage, his mistress, &c. &c. he had enlisted as a common soldier in the guards, at London; and that now his friends, who often supplied him with money, and, as he was young and handsome, wished to buy a commission for him in the guards, have given over assisting him, as he has married a woman who keeps a green-stall in Edinburgh; in other words, a street-walker.

FROM FORRES TO INVERNESS.

FROM Forres I went to Auldearn, a parish near the burgh of Nairn, where a battle was fought by Montrose, at the head of a party of Charles I's forces, against the covenanters. A great many lost their lives upon this occasion; though the battle was not decisive; and, it is the tradition, that a rivulet, which runs through the middle of the place, at present, as it did when the battle was fought, ran with blood.

Though the face of the country is improved, and improving fast here; and the arts of peace carefully cultivated, yet I was sorry to observe that here, as well as in too many other places, public worship is neither respected, nor attended by the higher ranks. I am led to this remark, from observing that a neat house, of a peculiar construction, built near the church, in religious times, for the proprietors of a large estate to pray and sing psalms in, between sermons, on Sunday, is converted into a stable and cow-house, and that the family for many years have scarcely, either in the morning or afternoon, been seen in the church. So that, with regard to religion, the face of the country is also changed. The common people, in all ages, have been apt to imitate their superiors. If they, too, come to neglect to worship the God of their fathers, it is not difficult to foresee what will be the consequence.

Being invited to dine with a gentleman near Auldearn, when I was praising the salad, which I

tarnished by the cruelty exercised on the chiefs, who acted from sentiments, though mistaken, not dishonourable; and still more by the calamities inflicted on the poor people, who had no alternative, but were forced to follow their chiefs. The graves, or long ditches, where hundreds who fell on that day were buried, are yet visible, and are covered with short beautiful grass, much eaten and beloved by the sheep; while all around these silent mansions is heath and barrenness; and the country, to a considerable distance, bleak and dreary, which it has ever been, I suppose, since the flood. The spot, near the field of battle, where nineteen poor wounded men, who had crawled from among the slain to a poor woman's house, and had lodged there all night, were shot the day after the battle, by order of the duke, was shewn me. The remains of the stone dyke, which, during the battle, was pulled down, and beside which so many hundreds fell in a few minutes, are still to be seen.

A sensible old man, I fell in with in this country, said, he never would forget the scenes of cruelty he saw committed here. The day after the battle, he told me, a very handsome and accomplished young man, who had been in the rebel army, thinking it the likeliest way to be concealed, put on his sister's clothes, and went walking about with her, and her acquaintance. As some of the king's officers passed, they made a bow to the ladies, and the ladies of course dropped a curtsey; but, unfortunately, the young man made a bow, which discovered him: and being almost instantly torn from his sisters and friends, he was, without any ceremony, immediately hanged.

FORT GEORGE.

From Culloden, I went to see Fort George, which, though not large, is one of the most regular in Europe. Having put down my name and address, in a book, which, as is the case at the dock-yard at Portsmouth, &c. &c. is required of every stranger that enters it, I was sorry to think that a million of money, which this Fort cost, should have been expended to little purpose. The spades, picks, axes, hammers, tents, beds, wheel-barrows, camp equipage, &c. &c. of which there are immense stores here, are all rotten, and scarcely good for any thing; nay, so useless are they, that I am of opinion, though government were to allow the men employed in digging the Caledonean canal, which is in the neighbourhood, the use of them, they would not think it any advantage. Indeed, the Fort itself, which was originally meant to keep the Highlanders in awe, is evidently now of little use, but as barracks for soldiers and valids; for as to its being a check on enemies ships, proceeding up to Inverness, I fancy few will be disposed to make the attempt.

I was much pleased with the chapel; but sorry to find that the deputy chaplain, like some of the deputy clergy, or curates in England, had so little for his trouble. There must be something wrong in that church government, which either authorizes, or permits a young and fat idle clergyman to take from the altars of God, without serving at them, large portions, while there is scarcely left a scanty subsistence for him that does the duty. It is unfortunate, that

there is too often ground for the remark, both in Scotland and in England, that, in general, the better the clergy are paid, the less they are attentive to their duty; and, indeed, the immense swarms of dissenting clergy, both on the north and south side of the Tweed, shew that the established clergy, upon many occasions, are not so attentive to their duty as they ought to be. Blind as the common people are, they in general would not part with their money to any ignorant fanatic, if they saw their parish priests carefully performing their duty. When the people hear it read from the desk, that there is to be no prayers in the afternoon, as the clergyman is going a nutting with the squire, they are partly excusable for giving their tythes with reluctance, and paying attention to some clergyman, who, so far as they are judges, will be more importunate with heaven for the forgiveness of their sins. Religion has of late become a mere farce in too many places in Scotland, as well as England; and how can it be otherwise, if the clergy set the example? There are too many puppy captains and colonels in the army, and, I was sorry to find, not only in the north, but south of Scotland, clergymen that but a year or two before had amused themselves with skipping ropes, whipping tops, &c. It is not many years since Mr. C—k, a clergyman, I rather should have said a big boy, had the impudence to speak in the general assembly of the church of Scotland, he having been dubbed the reverend, and appointed to a living in the church before he was twenty years of age, because his father had influence with the patrons, who were the masters of a once famous university, and with the presbytery.

While viewing the rooms of officers, petty officers, and men, at Fort George, I could not help being surprized at the conduct of a woman in the Fort, who, it seems, gained her livelihood by washing. Having a fine boy, about a year old, who was laid in his cradle, but was not likely to sleep, she first gave him half a wine glass full of strong whiskey, to lull him asleep. But, this not having the desired effect, she gave him another, and I learned, sometimes a third, to pacify his crying, that she might have leisure for her washing. I should not be surprized, if this child lives till he becomes a man, to hear that he is attached to his bottle.

Lessons of this kind are, no doubt, one cause why so many are attached to dram drinking, one of the most common vices among the lower orders of the people. Indeed, many of the better sort, having once habituated themselves to dram drinking, cannot be persuaded to lay it aside. So much was a gentleman in Buchan, of considerable landed property, attached to it, that, for some years before he died, though he was confined to his bed, and could not walk, yet, if he observed a bottle with spirits, by mistake left in his room, he never failed to get out of bed, and crawl on his hands and feet across the room to it, though so weak, that this, with returning to bed, was often the labour of an hour.

Though there are some spots of land between Fort George and Inverness, tolerably well cultivated, yet I was sorry to see some beautifully lying land, and seemingly excellent soil, still in a state of nature. If the heritors in the north and south of Scotland have not ready money to improve their waste ground,

why do they not raise it by way of tontine; as is now frequently done both in England and Ireland? There are individuals and societies in London, if they can find it nowhere else, that will advance any sum on reasonable terms, upon obtaining security for their money on the lands to be improved. Some scheme of this kind, if patronized by government, might, perhaps, operate in counteracting those numerous emigrations that are not only openly, but privately going on in the northern and western parts of Britain.

Though there are not many hedges, nor any great woods, I found in my way between Fort George and Inverness, an uncommon number of sparrows, and other birds. It is customary for the squires in England to receive large parcels of cats heads at all seasons of the years, as they generally give a shilling for each, supposing them to be destructive to partridges, hares, &c. and for the farmers to receive sackfulls of sparrows and other birds heads, as they offer generally three-pence the dozen for them, supposing them destructive to the corn; but, if the English farmers would come to this part of the country, they would find thousands of sparrows, &c. where there is scarcely any corn; and that, owing to the millions of insects, ova of animals, &c. &c. which little birds pick up, they generally do more good than ill. Poor little things, they are certainly entitled to a little grain, and it is cruel to refuse it them. The cats catch mice and other vermin, and, being thus useful, they are certainly entitled to partridges and young hares as well as we, if they can catch them; and I am glad to find

Inverneſs

that the Scotch are not yet so mercenary as to send to England sackfulls of cats and birds heads for the sake of the reward.

INVERNESS.

At Inverness I found a strange medley of the Scotch and English language spoken in the streets. In Nairn, as at well as this place, there are, as it were, two towns, and two different people, as the people that come from the country, and intend to speak Gaelic, live in one end of the town, and those that cannot, or do not intend to speak it, live in the other.

It has been often and justly remarked, that the people of Inverness speak English with remarkable purity; partly because they are at great pains to learn it, not merely from vulgar conversation, but by book, as we do Greek and Latin; and partly because English garrisons from the times of Cromwell have, in a great measure, given the tone, in respect of both diction and pronunciation, to the whole county, from Fort William to Fort George.

Inverness, the northermost town of any note in Britain, is beautifully situated on the south banks of the Ness, over which there is a stone bridge of seven arches. The salmon fishery here, which is let to London fishmongers, is very considerable. There are several thriving manufactures at Inverness, a good deal of shipping, and a great deal of inland trade. It has a very commodious harbour for vessels of two hundred tons, and ships of four

or five hundred can ride within a mile of the town. It is certainly admirably situated for both distant and domestic or inland commerce. Its population is estimated at about six thousand.

On the north, near the town, are the remains of Oliver Cromwell's fort. Of the castles of Macbeth, Malcolm Canmore, and the Cummins, nothing remains but rubbish.

Some of our Londoners, when they hear of Inverness, and that it is more than a hundred miles beyond Aberdeen, will perhaps think it the very skirts of the creation, and that to be condemned to live there would be worse than being sent to Botany Bay: but let me tell such cockneys, that there is scarcely an article, good, bad, or indifferent, to be found in London, but is to be found here also, excepting watchmen and patroles, of which, fortunately, there is no need.

The assembly rooms here, though not so large, are yet as well proportioned, and nearly as elegant as the assembly rooms at Edinburgh, London, and Bath. The academy is also a neat building, and the plan of education seems not only to be well laid, but, in general, properly executed. I was sorry, however, to find, that one of the rectors of the academy here had given up his place, and gone to London, imagining, with others of a warm imagination, and some knowledge in the laws of astronomy, that he had discovered the method of finding the longitude in the same way as they do the latitude, by the quadrant of altitude.

FROM INVERNESS TO FORT AUGUSTUS.

FROM Inverness I went to the Fall of Foirs, along the banks of Lochness and the line of the

CALEDONIAN CANAL;

and whether it was owing to the state of my mind, the idea of the national advantages arising from the canal, the appearance of the lake, or the beautifully varied objects that presented themselves to my mind, I confess this was, upon the whole, the most pleasant forenoon's excursion I ever made. I found it from eight to ten miles from Inverness to Lochness, and all this way the earth must be cut and scooped out, in order that ships may pass from the Murray Forth to Lochness; which is one of the largest lakes in Scotland, being twenty-four miles long, and from two to three broad in some places. Its waters, owing to some sulphureous matter at the sides and bottom, never freeze; and so deep is it, that though in some places it has been sounded with a line of near a thousand fathoms, no bottom has been found.

The Caledonian Canal, which will reach from Inverness on the Murray Firth to Fort William, bordering on the Irish Sea, will divide the northern parts of Scotland into two, and be of much use in a variety of ways, not only to this part of the

country, but to the empire at large. As it is tedious to sail from the Baltic through the English Channel, and dangerous to go round by the Orkneys, it is more than probable there will be a communication opened between the northern parts of Europe and the northern parts of America through the Caledonian canal; and this canal will, in all probability, in process of time, contribute to the improvement of that immense tract of country called Labradore, and from that improvement draw in return immense advantages, in the way of navigation and commerce, to the north of Scotland.

The Caledonial Canal is certainly a measure calculated not only to ameliorate the condition of many in the north of Scotland and the face of the country through which it passes, but also fraught with much probable advantage to the British commerce, as well as extensive alterations for the bettering our settlementts in North America. Merimashee, and several other of our settlements on the northern banks of the river St. Lawrence, bordering on Labrador, it is to be hoped, will soon feel its beneficial effects. It is certain, that the rivers about Merrimashee not only abound with fish, and that the land produces excellent crops, but that the climate is excellent, and the people long-lived and healthy. Kamskatka, which is about the same latitude, is of much use, and brings in considerable revenues to the Russian government, notwithstanding that it has more territories than subjects to occuy them. Labradore, in like manner, encouraged by the growing demands and facilities

of commerce, and fostered by the attentions of government, will, it is to be hoped, be taken out of the hands of wolves, boars, and foxes, and become the peaceful abode of civilised life, and a new source of wealth to the British nations. Indeed, it could be wished that those of the Highlanders who are determined to leave their native country could be induced to settle in British America, by having more advantageous offers held out to them than they can expect, on the banks of the Ohio, the counties of Kentucky, the borders of Lake Superior, &c. or even the environs of New York; where, particularly during the warm months of the year, death stalks about, laying his cold iron hand on thousands in the prime of life. I am the rather led to turn my hopes to our territories on the banks of St. Lawrence, as I am afraid the four hundred and seventy-five thousand pounds,* which it is estimated the Caledonian canal will cost, and which has been partly granted by government to prevent emigration, will not have the desired effect. Like a contagious fever, the spirit of emigration, when once it has become general, is not easily opposed; and the people of the Highlands, driven from their farms by the avarice of their landholders, will rather seek a scanty subsistance on a foreign shore than remain at home, to see their possessions, which they and their fathers occupied, in the hands of strangers, and

* Exclusive of expenses to be incurred by the purchase of land. But the additional expense on this head is not expected to be very considerable, as many of the proprietors have offered their land gratuitously, and as the land itself on the intended line of canal is not in general of great value.

turned into extensive sheep-walks. The high wages given for digging the Caledonian canal may detain some of these for a time; but, till they cease to hear of the success of some of their acquaintance that have gone before them, or find themselves invited to improve the seats of their forefathers and the scenes of their younger years, they will never cease to wish to be gone, where hope induces them to think they will be happier.

It is also unfortunate for the Caledonian canal, that there is but little ground on each side of it; the hills of Lovat being on the one hand, and the hills of Urquhart on the other: the roots of which, in many places, jutt out to the very borders of the lake. What then is to be done with the Highlanders after the canal is finished? There is scarcely any ground on its banks that can be improved, so as to be settlements for them. The towns and villages of Scotland are, perhaps, too full already, and the abodes of their youth are now turned into extensive sheep walks, and in the hands of a few overgrown monopolizers. What then can they do but go to our settlements abroad, or some other settlements? This is lord Selkirk's reasoning: and it is irrefragable. At home, the landed proprietors, though many of them have thousands of acres that might be improved, will not give above nineteen years of a lease, which is not adequate, at any rent, for improving some land. There are not manufactures in the north to employ a twentieth part of the hands that are idle, even if the genius and habits of the Highlanders inclined them to manufactures.

It seems cruel to prevent the poor wretches of the northern parts of Britain (as the Highland Society has, in fact, found means of doing by an act of parliament) to transport themselves beyond the sea, while, at the same time, there is no object presented to rouse their attention, or excite their industry at home. Government must, therefore, either provide employment for these poor people for many years at home, or lay its account with seeing them transport themselves to a foreign shore. The truth is, the Americans, knowing the state of the Highlands, have agents in every part of it, who, by advertisements, hand-bills, promises, and flattering accounts, set the people agog, and render them unhappy till they are on shipboard, when their misery begins. From the promises and representations of the agents every young man thinks himself certain of a farm when he goes to America, and that whether he has money or not; and every young woman who has not found a husband in her own country hopes to find one there. If government cannot suppress the spirit of emigration, it should endeavour to give it a benignant and wise direction.

The road along the side of Lochness runs through a beautiful shrubbery of birch, oak, and alders. The opposite, or northern side of the Loch is formed by lofty mountains, covered with heath. For several miles from the east end of the Loch there are many plantations of fir, some of them very extensive. On the southern side of this great pass, formed by a chain of glens and lakes, or, as we may now say, to the south of the Caledonian canal, the country is exceedingly mountainous, and supposed

to be the most elevated ground in Scotland. From the numerous lakes of this lofty region, many streams descend into seas on the opposite side of the island. Here, in the district of Badenoch, is the source of the Spey; and from hence the Spian, issuing from the western extremity of Loch Logan, after a rapid and precipitous course of twenty miles, joins the Lochie. The united streams of these, receiving in their couse the waters of several rapid rivers, fall into the Atlantic near Fort William, with such force and rapidity, that for a long way it is unmixed, and has not the least taste of salt water.

On the top of a mountain in this region of mountains is Loch Tarff, about a mile wide, with several small islands in it, on some of which are a few shrubs. From this flows the river Tarff, which falls into Lochness near Fort Augustus. This river is famous on account of its cataracts, known by the name of the Falls of Foirs.

Over the river Tarff, upon two perpendicular rocks, is thrown an arch near one hundred feet from the level of the water. There is one fall of the river above the bridge, and another below it. Just above the bridge the whole body of the Tarff falls about fifty feet into the glen of that name.

About a quarter of a mile below the bridge it falls near two hundred feet: after which it rolls and tumbles over large and rugged rocks into Lochness. Of this fall I determined to have as near a view as possible.

As there had been rain in the hills, the river was somewhat swoln, which made the fall awfully beautiful; and that I might have the better view, I

crawled down a considerable way among rocks and precipices, not without considerable danger of falling headlong.

At the corner of a wood, not far from the Fall, I observed an old healthy-looking woman gathering sticks, to dress her food and warm herself, that had, it seems, resided in a small hut in a corner of the wood near ninety years. Few, very few, who have seen the half of her years, are more nimble than she seemed to be. Upon putting a little money quietly into her hand, she thanked me, and desired me to take care, in going to view the fall, as if a foot slipped it might be at the risk of my neck. Its majesty and sublimity is best beheld when you stand near the bottom; which, indeed, as the poor woman told me, is of difficult access.

We are told, that the people who live near the Fall of Niagara, in America, are extremely dull of hearing, and always speak loud, from the drum of their ears being affected by the continued noise of the water; and that there is a perpetual cloud above the Fall, which in certain positions, when the sun shines, appears beautiful, possessing all the colours of the rainbow. I am led to believe this account, as, for hours after I left the Fall of Foirs, I thought I heard its noise at my ears; and in a certain position, when coming up from viewing it, I observed the smoke which arises from this fall, and which always, less or more, hangs over it, exhibiting a number of beautiful colours, which, for a considerable time, I viewed with pleasure and admiration.

At the General's Hut, a small inn near the Fall of

Foirs, which may be near twenty miles from Inverness, on the south side of the lake, and which is so named because general Wade halted there some time, I felt myself in a very uncomfortable situation. I was extremely hungry, it being near five in the evening, and I had taken nothing since seven in the morning, except part of a small cake of gingerbread I had purchased when leaving Inverness.

At the General's Hut, though they had not any eatables, besides oatmeal cakes, cheese, and butter, I might have made a very good meal, for hunger is an excellent sauce; but alas! I had not well begun my repast, when I observed, by my landlady's hands, that she had the itch! Upon my asking her who baked the cakes, the replied, "the maid." I asked to see the maid, who almost instantly appeared, and I found by her hands, though I said nothing, that she was infected also. Thus, from the idea of the mistress having made the cheese and the butter, and the maid the cakes, I was so disgusted that I could not eat any more. Therefore drinking plenty of porter, which I found bottled and extremely good, and finishing the rest of the gingerbread, I took my poney, which I had seen well fed, and set out for Fort Augustus, which is about twelve miles westward.

The same physical circumstances which invite the formation at certain places, of canals, also lead to the establishment of military posts. As the fortification or prætentura of Agricola extended over the isthmus between the Clyde and the Forth, where along-side of its remains are now found the Carron

Canal, so the Caledonian Canal is naturally associated to the chain of forts that runs across the northern parts of Scotland. This chain is formed by Fort George, Fort Augustus, and Fort William. Fort George precludes all entrance up the Murray Frith towards Inverness on the east; Fort Augustus curbs the inhabitants midway; and Fort William is a check on any attempts in the west. I should rather say, that such was their original design, for now there is very little danger of revolt and rebellion in the Highlands; but at the time when they were constructed they were far from being unnecessary, either for the purpose of power or good government. Detachments were, and I suppose are now made, though not perhaps with so much regularity, to Inverness, Bernera Barracks, opposite to the Isle of Skie, and Castle Duart, in the Isle of Mull. Other small parties were also scattered in huts throughout the country to prevent the stealing of cattle. *

* In the first part of the last century, the law in the Highlands of Scotland was not enforced without the aid of the soldiery. About the year 1720, or soon after, a number of independent companies were formed, under different commanders, for the purpose of preventing robberies, enforcing the law, and keeping the peace of the country, under the name of the *Highland Watch* and the *Black Watch*, from the colour of their clothes. They were afterwards formed, towards the close of 1739, with the addition of four companies, into the Highland or forty-second regiment, under their first colonel, John, earl of Crawfurd.

The following particulars, extracted from "Memoirs of the Old Highland Sergeant Donald Macleod," of the authenticity of which, by the person who drew them up from his own mouth, and from

Docks, or basons, for the entrance of vessels into the canal from the eastern and western seas, have

other evidence, I am well assured, will serve to convey a pretty clear and lively idea of the state of the Highlands at that time.

" James Roy Stewart, a gentleman and a driver, or rather stealer of cattle, in Strathspey, had long laid the country, far and near, under heavy contributions of both horse and cattle, and defied, wounded, and dispersed the officers of justice: when sergeant Macleod, with a party of thirty men, was sent to surprize, if possible, and to secure him in his house at Tulloch-Gorum. The sergeant came upon him suddenly, and early in the morning, while he was in bed. He left the men without, disposed at small distances from each other, around the house. He himself went boldly in, armed with a dirk, a sword, and loaded pistols. His wife, a very lady-like woman, was up and dressed, early as it was; for it was customary for some trusty person to keep watch while the *red* * robber slept. At the sight of Macleod, Mrs. Stewart was greatly discomposed, for she suspected his errand; but she endeavoured to dissemble her tears, and to soothe her suspicious guest by all the officiousness of hospitality. " Madam," said Macleod, " I am come to speak to James Roy. He is in the house, I know, and in bed." This he said at a venture, for he was not sure of it; but his firm and determined manner overcame the poor gentlewoman, so that she assented to the truth of his information. Roy Stewart, on hearing what passed, jumped out of his bed, with his clothes on, in which he had lain, and, armed with a dirk and pistols, he seemed desirous at first of making towards the door; but Macleod seized the pass, and the robber, dissembling his intentions, assumed a courteous air, called for whiskey and bread and cheese, and pressed his uninvited guest to partake heartily of such cheer as his house afforded. " I know," said he, " you are not alone, for no man ever durst to come into my house alone, on such an errand."

The sergeant, without acquiescing in this last sentiment, but, on the contrary, with an asseveration that he feared not the face of man or of devil, acknowledged that a company of men lay not far from

* So called from the colour of his hair.

been begun to be formed. The works of the dock, or bason, adjoining to the intended tide-lock at

them both at that moment. "Very well," said Stewart, "but I hope you are not in a hurry: sit down, and let you and I talk together, and take our breakfast." Macleod agreed to this, and a bottle of whiskey, at least, was exhausted in good fellowship, before a word was said of business on either side. At length Macleod, after a short pause in the conversation, said, "Jamie, what did you with the thirty head of cattle you drove away from the laird of Glen Bisset's, and the six score, or thereabout, that you took away from the lands of Strathdown?" It was in vain to deny the fact; Macleod had not come to try, but to secure, and produce him for trial. Stewart, therefore, waving all discussion of that point, said, "Sergeant Macleod, let me go for this time, and neither you nor the country shall be troubled with me any more."—"Jamie, I cannot let you go: you have slashed many men, and stolen much horse and cattle. How many straths are afraid of you?—Jamie, you must go with me."—"Sergeant Macleod, let me go for this time, and I will give you a hundred guineas."—"It was not for guineas, Jamie, that I came here this day; rather than be drawn off from the duty of a soldier for a few guineas, I would go with you and steal cattle."

James Roy was now in great distress, and his poor wife, falling on the ground before Macleod, and embracing and holding fast his knees, implored mercy to her husband with showers of tears; and their four children, stark naked from their beds, joined their infant intercessions with tears and loud lamentations. The noble-minded sergeant, moved with compassion, took the lady by the hand, and comforted her with these words: "My dear, I will, for your sake, and the sake of these innocent babes, let James Roy go for this time, on condition that he will deliver all the cattle that I have mentioned, to be given up to their right owners." This condition was eagerly accepted, and Stewart, in the flow of gratitude and joy, would have given Macleod whatever share or portion of the hundred guineas he had offered as his ransom, that he pleased to accept; but the sergeant generously declined to accept one single shilling, and all that he required was refreshment for his thirty men, which was afforded in great plenty. A great part of the day was spent in conviviality,

Carpach, on Loch-Eil, upon the western sea, which were carried on throughout the whole of the

and in the evening they were directed to the cattle, which they restored to their proprietors.

Very different from the conduct of our Donald, towards the notorious James Stewart Roy, was that of sergeant Macdonald, not many years thereafter. It was known that two oxen, which were missing, had been taken by Stewart; and sergeant Macdonald was sent with a party to take both the robber and the oxen. The oxen were readily given up; but Stewart was forced to purchase the connivance of sergeant Macdonald at his escape, by giving up all that he had in the world, which amounted to 215l. This sum he kept in a strong chest in his own house: for, in those days, the Highlanders were unacquainted with bills of exchange, and there was no paper currency. Yet Macdonald, to whom James Roy weakly imagined he might now trust his safety, in order, it was supposed, to conceal or discredit any report of his robbing the robber, had the treachery, a few weeks after, to draw the unfortunate Stewart into an ambuscade, under the guise of friendship, and surrender him to justice. Stewart was hanged, together with one Macallum, at Perth. The same elevation of mind that distinguished James Roy among all the cattle-drivers of his times, appeared on his trial; and, during the interval between his sentence and its execution. His only hope had been, that he might, by cunning or by force, escape the hands of constables and soldiers. It never occurred to him to place any confidence in deficiency of evidence, or any chicanery of law. He made a free and full confession of the life that he had led, and was anxious to vindicate the character of his poor wife and children, from all suspicion of participation in his crimes. He declared that his wife had often forwarned him of the end to which his course led, and conjured him, with tears, to live at home, and be contented with the returns of his own farm. He had many accomplices among his neighbours and kindred; but no delusive hints of a reprieve, not even the exhortations of the fanatical ministers about Perth, renowned in all times for blind zeal and absurdity, could persuade him to give up one man, that had committed himself to his honour.

In contrast with the animated, and, in some respects, noble con-

winter 1803—4, have now, I understand, been completed; as also the excavations, banks, &c. for a

duct of James Roy Stewart, appeared the brutal stupidity of Macallum. This wretch had for many years retired with his father from all human society, and lived in caves and dens, in the recesses of the Minegeg mountains; into which habitations he brought, like the Cyclops in Homer, sheep, goats, and even oxen. The party that discovered Macallum, found, in his den, a deep cavern in a mountain, the bones of the animals he had made his prey, piled up in heaps, or disposed in such a manner as to form, with hay laid over them, a kind of bed; the flesh of bullocks salted up in their skins; and large quantities of fir-wood for firing. In the interior part of the cavern lay the father of Macallum, in his plaid, resting his head on a truss of hay, and groaning in the agonies of death. This miserable object they did not disturb, but left him to his fate. Young Macallum, in the form as well as the nature of a savage, for his hair and beard had extended themselves over his face, so as to render it scarcely visible, was conducted to Perth, where he was condemned to die, for a series of thefts committed for more than twenty years. During the time of his trial, as well as after it, he shewed an astonishing indifference about his fate. He minded nothing but eating; and had a very constant craving for food, particularly animal food, which, had it been given, he would have devoured in immoderate quantities. When the ministers of Perth talked to him of the "heavenly manna, and the bread of life."—"Give me meat," said Macallum, "in the mean time." Even on his way from his prison to the gallows, he called for some rolls and cold meat, that he recollected had been left in his cell. This beast, however, so inveterate and often ridiculous is the pride of clanship, growled some expressions of discontent, that Stewart was honoured with the right hand, as they were led forth to the place of execution.

After the melancholy fate of Stewart, his family were soon involved in so great distress, that they were obliged to throw themselves on the charity of the world. Now the treachery of sergeant Macdonald, who, on pretence of saving the life of Stewart, had robbed his family of almost all that stood between them and ruin, was discovered, and excited universal indignation. He was given up by Sir Robert

similar purpose, at Clachnacarry, on the shore of Loch Beauly, on the eastern sea.

These docks, or basons, are each of them about four hundred yards in length, and upwards of seventy in breadth, a space which will admit large vessels to lie therein, and to pass and turn with ease. At both places, several people of the Highlands, who have been engaged in canal work in other parts of Scotland and in England, have been employed and set useful examples to others who have not been accustomed to that sort of employment.

Three small boats have been provided at each end of the intended inland navigation, for carrying provisions, tools, and other articles; and two large barges for carrying stone and other materials, the one upon Loch Eil, and the other upon Loch Beauly. A very considerable quantity of fir and birch timber was purchased in the vicinity of the works, the price varying from ten-pence to fourteen-pence the cubic foot. It is expected that a great saving will arise from hence in the prosecution of the works, as this timber, for most purposes, is not inferior to what must otherwise have been imported at double those prices. Both at Clachna Carry and Carpach, workshops for blacksmiths and carpenters, and store-houses for tools and utensils, have been erected, with huts for accommodating above a hundred men.

Munro, his colonel, to a judicial trial; and, for that and other crimes of a similar nature, was hanged at Inverness.

Our worthy sergeant Macleod, not long after his expedition to Tulloch-Gorum, was sent with a small party to catch James Robertson, a horse-stealer, in Athol, &c. &c."

The number of men employed in the works in the end of 1803, besides those already established in trades, and engaged in making and repairing tools and utensils for the use of the workmen, was about one hundred and fifty. I understand that this number, in the progress of the work, has been since doubled. The wages given to labourers are, on an average, about eighteen-pence a day.

Lines of road are to be formed for opening the shortest and easiest intercourse between the countries to the south and those to the north of this great inland navigation. Roads are to be extended to the eastern and western coasts, through the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, and especially to the fishing station at Wick; the only station, by the bye, of all the fishing stations established by the British Fishing Society, that holds out any reasonable expectation of success. Through this northern tract, or division, only one military road, after the year 1745, was extended. On the south side of the navigation, a bridge is to be thrown over the river Tay at Dunkeld; and also a road on the side of the ferry leading towards the northern entrance of the Crinan Canal.

The one-half of the expenses of all these improvements is to be defrayed by the country, the other by government.

Fort Augustus, situated on a plain at the head of Lochness, between the Tarff and Oich, is a fortress capable of containing only from four to five hundred men. It is formed by four bastions. It is well enough fitted for bridling the country and enforcing the law and execution of justice, but inca-

pable, I should suppose, of making any defence against artillery, being commanded by several heights at no great distance. Below the fort is a small pier, which affords shelter for small vessels and boats that come from Inverness to supply the garrison. Over the Oich is a bridge of three arches, well built, which opens a communication with the north and north-west.

From Fort Augustus I had a peep of Loch Lochy, through which the canal runs, as well as Loch Oich. The distance between these being but small, it will not require much cutting to form the canal.

The country all around is wildly beautiful, grand, and sublime; but as it was my object to see the most northerly parts of the kingdom before my return southward, I crossed the lake, and landed near the castle of Urquhart. This was once the seat of the Cummings, at one period the most powerful clan in Scotland. It is situated on a promontory of solid rock jutting into Lochness. The lake, with its woody borders, and the lofty mountains with which it is environed, render this a most romantic situation. Nor will it, after this, be so melancholy a place as it must have formerly been, as it will be approximated both in imagination and by the facility of communication to other places and countries, by means of the Caledonian Canal.

View on Loch Lochy.

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From FORT AUGUSTUS to DORNOCH.

While crossing the lake, I began to see a reason why there is, perhaps, less rain in Murrayshire than any where else in Scotland. There is evidently a hollow from Inverness to Fort William, with the high hills of Lovat, &c. on the south side, and the hills of Urquhart on the north; and all along this hollow, which extends the whole breadth of the island, there is a perpetual current of air, as in a Syphon, either from west to east, or directly contrary. If, then, the clouds, impregnated with rain, arise from the west, by the time they approach this current of air they generally begin to acquire such a velocity as carries them past Inverness, and even over the whole of the lower parts of Murray into the German Ocean, before much of the rain, with which they are impregnated, falls; and the same principle operates when the clouds, impregnated with rain, arise from the German Ocean. Hence, probably, the reason why from eight to ten inches less of water falls in the lower parts of Murray than any where else in North Britain. But whether this current of air, always from east to west, or the contrary, will upon some occasions be detrimental or advantageous to the shipping on the Caledonian canal, I leave the projectors to determine.

The roads on the south side of the lake, from Inverness to Fort Augustus, must have been made at

a vast expense, it being, in some places, cut through the rock at the foot of the hills of Lovat, which extends to the very lake; but, on the other side, at the foot of the hills of Urquhart, there seems scarcely any road at all, and the only pleasant sensation I felt arose from a most extensive prospect of lofty and rugged mountains, rising to a prodigious height, and in some places almost perpendicular from a widely extended lake. After a long fatiguing ride through a tract of country but thinly peopled, and in many places miserably cultivated, I arrived at

CROMARTY,

Where I found a number of genteel people, and many as well and as fashionably dressed as any in the city of London. The bay here is noble, and the harbour so large, that the British navy might ride secure in it. The entrance into the bay is narrow, and there are rocks in the sea on each side at the entrance, which are called the souters of Cromarty, because they guard the entrance into the bay; and, on account of this name, some imagine that the Greeks have been here, and that the name is taken from the Greek word σωτηρ, Servator, or Saviour, but it is more likely derived from the word shooters; in other words, rocks shooting out into the sea.

Though the feudal system and clanship is fast declining in Scotland, yet I was sorry to find so many marks of it in this part of the country. Being in-

troduced here to a respectable family, by a letter I had with me, as I had been, by means of letters to a variety of families in the different places I had visited, I found the gentleman of the house, and indeed all the family, proud of their clan, which they called the clan Donachie, or those that were descended from that individual of the family who was called Duncan. As I knew little of their clans, and was, as I observed some of the company also were, fatigued with hearing the long history he had given us of his family, and the antiquity and grandeur of his clan, wishing to change the subject, I said, "As for me, I am of the clan Adam, which I believe is the oldest of them all." The gentleman, a little nettled, replied, "And so are the Hottentots," and went on with the history of his clan. I confess I think the time might have been better spent than hearing such minute details, and could not help being astonished that any sensible man should think that such cruel bloody ancestors could reflect any honour on their posterity, which the gentleman seemed to think his did.

The only other day I remained at this place, for I had been three days there already, I was again condemned to hear the mistress of the house, a good-looking old woman, give us the history of her clan: and her daughters, who were handsome, and by no means uninformed, seemed to delight in pointing out to their mother, in the course of her narration, some particulars respecting marriages, courtships, &c. when she was likely to forget them. We all listened to the lady with attention; and, out of complaisance, I with

the rest, when she had ended, said, we were obliged to her. The daughters, who afterwards gave us a tune on the forte piano, and sang to it some beautiful Gaelic, as well as Scotch, songs, possessed many amiable qualities; and, excepting their heads being, perhaps, too much filled with an idea of their own importance, as the descendants of so powerful a clan as the clan Keron, which it seems was theirs by the mother's side, I saw no fault in their deportment or appearance.

Cromarty is situated on a narrow neck of land, which stretches out into the Murray Frith, at the mouth of Cromarty Bay. It has a considerable coasting trade in corn, thread, yarn, fish, and skins; and, as already mentioned, a most excellent harbour.

Though nothing can be imagined more horrid than the general aspect of the small county of Cromarty, it is in many places not unfertile, and well cultivated. Near the town of Cromarty particularly are many neat enclosures and beautiful plantations. It seems, on the whole, to be a thriving place.

Having rode along the south side of Cromarty Firth to Dingwall, where I fell in with nothing worthy of remark, except a beautiful and extensive view, and some well-cultivated fields, I went to Tain. At this place nothing disgusted me more than some fanatics, whom I met by accident. As the people at Cromarty seemed to pique themselves on a minute acquaintance with the history of their clan, so the people here would make you believe that they are indifferent to all the pleasures and the

vanities of this world, and solely taken up with spiritual concerns; and, knowing well how much the pride of ancestry and clanship prevails in many places, they will frequently observe, "that it is of small importance how any person is born, in a carnal or physical sense: the great point to be ascertained being to know whether we be born again." This very expressive metaphor, in the Sacred Scriptures, is meant to denote that total change of sentiments, habits, views, and hopes, that is brought about gradually by the progressive influence of the doctrines, precepts, examples, and motives held out in the gospel. But the melancholy fanatics of Tain suppose that the new birth, or regeneration, is the work of a moment, as it were, and accordingly they are anxious to trace their conversion and election, or, as they say, their being both *called and chosen* to some particular occasion of time, place, or incident. They are wholly absorbed in metaphysical notions and doubts. With the love, charity, and joyful hopes inspired by the genuine doctrines of our Saviour they seem to be unacquainted.

Being here on a Sunday, and not wishing them to think me an outcast, I went to hear sermon along with them. It turned wholly on matters of controversy. Not only were Deists and Unitarians very roughly, I do not say very skillfully, handled, but Arminians also. The bishops of England, in their addresses to the clergy under them, have for some years exhorted them, with the utmost earnestness, not only to defend our religion against Deists, but to be at great pains to explain and maintain the peculiar and mysterious doctrines of christianity. The bishop of London, in a charge delivered to the

clergy of his diocese in 1795, exhorts them, above all things, to maintain and explain these in a course of sermons before unlettered christians. I very much doubt whether this be a zeal according to knowledge. Unlettered christians, very fortunately, do not entertain the least doubt concerning the truth of revealed religion, or of the doctrines of the church, however mysterious. To start game for the feeble efforts of their untutored intellect, and the vagaries of an ill-regulated imagination, prompted in their exertions by evil appetites and desires, is not good economy. Next to the open aggressors of christianity, and of our religious establishments, in effect, though not in design, are those officious controversialists, who think it worth while to follow infidels and heretics into all the cavities and corners, in which, by mingling a little light with much darkness, they endeavour, and sometimes with two much success, to throw all things into doubt and confusion. The divine precepts, and doctrines, as far as they can be comprehended by human understanding, shine by their own light, and communicate warmth and life by their own heat. Instead of endless disputation, nay, instead of too many moral discourses, it would be well to read very large portions of the Scripture, unmixed with human sentiment however pathetic, and all conceits however ingenious.

It was formerly, and is, I believe still, usual for the ministers in Ross-shire, Caithness, and the Orkneys, to stop occasionally in the midst of their discourses, and call on their hearers, to let them know, if any thing in their discourse wanted explanation.

Ross-shire, of which Tain is one of the principal towns may be called the Holy Land of Scotland, but a

few days, was long enough to convince me that religion does not influence the hearts of the people here more than in other parts of the country, where their public devotions do not occupy above one half the time.

Having crossed the Firth, at Tain, I arrived at Dornoch, in Sutherland, where I observed the country in many places to have a cold, dreary, and bleak appearance. Dornoch, the county town of Sutherland, has not more than about five hundred inhabitants.

It has been observed, that there are too many tide-waiters and excisemen in the country, and that the revenue might be levied as effectually, as well as at less expense, if there were fewer. This may be the case on the river Thames and some other places, and there may be abuses in this as well as in other public offices in London, where the clerks generally sit more than one half of their time reading Roderick Random and other books of the kind; the offices often admitting and paying more clerks, &c. than they have occasion for. Yet I am certain there are not more revenue officers along this coast than are necessary, considering the number of smugglers. The truth is, that notwithstanding all the vigilance of government, the greater part of the northern coasts of Scotland are swarming with them, and foreign spirits of all kinds, of an excellent quality, are every where to be found, particularly near fishing towns; the fishers going out with their boats, and bringing ashore what the smugglers cannot conveniently land. I mention these circumstances because I know them to be true, and because, notwithstanding what is said in favour

of the Brunonian system, and that small keep off great fevers, nothing tends more to enervate the body, corrupt the mind, and banish genuine christianity, than dram-drinking, which I found too much practised here, even by those that say long prayers, as well as in many other places.

FROM DORNOCH TO CAPE WRATH.

FROM Dornoch, through a country, some parts of which seemed to be tolerably well cultivated, and others in a state of nature, I arrived at the foot of the Ord of Caithness. This is an exceedingly high hill, though I did not ascend it, which is seen from the coasts of Murray, rising in a grand and majestic manner. However, I am sorry to say, the country looks bleak and barren in most places around it; and, except about Berrydale Castle, the seat of the earl of Caithness, and the improvements lately made by Sir John Sinclair, Mr. Horn, writer to the signet, and a few others, Caithness has yet a most dreary appearance. I am surprized that the proprietors of land here do not encourage and invite farmers from the southern counties of Scotland, to occupy and improve their estates. There is much ground in Caithness, with long tough grass, which evidently shews the soil in Caithness to be fertile, were it properly cultivated and drained; and were a few good farmers to be scattered here and there over the country, and to find suitable encouragement from the proprietors, particularly as the herring and other fisheries on its coast are capable of much improvement, Caithness might become much warmer, and a kind of paradise, compared with what it is. It is true the soil in many places seems swampy, but then there are stones enough in most places to make covered drains; and, where these cannot be easily

obtained, the other methods recommended by Elkington on Draining, might be adopted to advantage.

It is unfortunate that there is not more wood in Caithness; but certainly, clumps, belts, and patches, of wood, might, by degrees, be adopted; which, by carefully suiting the plant to the soil, would no doubt thrive; and, consequently, beautify and warm the country. It is true, wood, in general, does not thrive here, unless well sheltered; but I am sorry to say, that they who have introduced planting here, have not attentively (lord Caithness excepted) adapted the plant to the soil. It is a fact, that on several parts belong to the earl of Caithness, birch springs spontaneously, though yearly destroyed and eaten down by the cattle; and in several places, particularly in hollows, the plantings and clumps introduced by his lordship are in a thriving condition. Sir John Sinclair has some plantations about Bradwell, in the parish of Hall-kirk, of the thinnings of which he lately sold to the amount of ten pounds, a great matter for this country! Yet, still it seems, wood, with proper care, may be raised of some kind. 'There is not a doubt but it grew here formerly, and even in Iceland.' It seems easy to raise wood in the neighbourhood of wood; but very difficult to raise it where there is no wood. The French voyager, Peyrouse, remarked, that where any island in high latitudes had been denuded of its wood, it was next to impossible to restore it. You must begin this arduous and slow work, by raising any kind of wood that will grow, however dwarfish.

In general, the men and women of Caithness, are

but of small stature, as well as the trees. We are not to judge of them by such tall strapping fellows as Sir John Sinclair, and other gentlemen from that county; who have the double advantage of plenty of victuals and a keen air. They are stunted creatures, with a sharp visage, indicative of both intelligence and want. I was at pains to inquire into the diet of these poor people. Breakfast, MEAL and BREE, that is, water-gruel, not the substantial porridge of the Lowlanders.

Dinner, *meal and bree kail*, or a kind of soup meagre, in which there is boiled, perhaps, some barley or grits, with some kail, and a scanty allowance of barley-cakes. Supper, *meal and bree:* or, in place of this, sowens, a kind of frumarty, made from the husks of grits, or oatmeal. On Sundays, or other festivals, they have, after their *meal and bree*, some milk, or perhaps two eggs. If any farmer is reported to eat flesh; the laird considers this as a fraud on him. "I must look sharp after this man: he has his farm too cheap. They tell me he eats flesh-meat."

It is a common thing for labourers, or farmers servants, to stipulate with their masters, that, besides their *meal and bree*, or soup meagre for dinner, they shall have a certain number of stocks of kail, to be eaten with bread and salt. This must appear to an Englishman wholly incredible; as being altogether insufficient to keep soul and body together. Nevertheless, there is nothing more certain, and I dare to appeal for the truth of it to any one acquainted with Caithness. Fish, they sometimes have; and certainly might have it oftener, if something wrong in the political economy of the country,

did not counteract the benignity of nature; as at Perth, and other parts, with respect to the salmon.

The lairds and ladies of Caithness, seem social, convivial, gay, and merry, in proportion to the misery of the poor slaves, from whose labour and privations they derive the means of their festivity. They visit one another often, and for weeks at a time—One thing peculiar to Caithness: The gentlemen gently pinch the toes of the ladies with their own toes, by way of making love, under the table at dinner or supper. I was astonished at a constant treading on my toes, one night, which was repeated after many wry faces on my part. Next morning, having mentioned the circumstance to some one, I was let into the secret. My toes, by mistake, received a compliment not intended.

Caithness in its present state, it must be confessed, seems not much calculated for the produce of trees, as there are in many places not more than three feet of earth, and rock every where below; consequently rock not being an absorbing stratum, rain, when it falls, lodges above the rock; and, if more than is sufficient to moisten the earth, ruins the main or top root, when it goes down that far: but this excess of moisture, which must obstruct, in many cases, the growth even of acquatic plants, might in a great measure be prevented by draining, which would not only give vent, in nine cases out of ten, to the surplus moisture, and prevent the main and other roots from being too much steeped in water, but also ameliorate the climate, and give life to a thousand different kinds of vegetables that never will thrive till this mode of procedure is adapted.

Though I found many genteel and well-informed

people here, yet I could not help observing a cast of countenance in the people, which, though uncommon, is by no means disagreeable. Many of them have high cheek bones, rather broad foreheads, and, though a peculiar, yet a shrewd and sensible look.

The coast of Caithness, from Dornoch to Wick, a distance of near sixty miles, running north and east, is not much indented, and nearly a straight line. The ord of Caithness, and a variety of other hills of less note, spread their roots to the sea, which here is fertile in proportion as the land is barren. Excepting at Gosport, near Portsmouth, I never saw a greater variety of broken and curious shells, than I found on the beach, not far from Dunbeath Castle, where I went one morning to amuse myself, by taking a plunge in the sea.

They have, what they call, lucky and unlucky days, hours, and objects here, as well as in the interior of the Highlands, where Inverness-shire joins Aberdeenshire, Bamffshire, and that of Murray; and where, as travellers seldom visit those places, I have been the more minute in my remarks. For instance, if an ox or sheep is killed, during the time the moon is decreasing, they imagine the pieces, while salting, boiling, or otherwise dressing, will grow less; but, if these are killed while the moon is encreasing, they imagine that these pieces will also encrease. Hence they generally kill oxen, sheep, &c. from the change to the full of the moon. There is a certain day in which they generally marry; and they imagine, were they to marry on any other day, that the marriage would be unfortunate. The day on which they generally choose to enter the pale of

matrimony, is Thursday. A custom prevails in this part of the country, at weddings, even among what is called the better sort of people; which, though formerly common all over Scotland, and still generally prevails among the lower classes, will probably be considered in England as either very indelicate, or a proof of great simplicity of manners, according to the cast of different imaginations. The married couple are bedded before witnesses. The bride retires first from the entertainment, accompanied by the unmarried women. She is found sitting upright in bed, in a night dress, when the bridegroom, with the unmarried men enter. The bride and bridegroom drink to the health of the company, and the company to the health and happiness of the bride and bridegroom. The bride turning herself about a little, throws her stocking over her left shoulder; and the person on whom it falls is to be first married.

It is often attempted by the men to make the bridegroom drunk. This I understand had lately been tried with a worthy clergyman, about sixty years old, who was well seasoned to drinking, and very fond of convivial society, in vain. Instead of avoiding, he encouraged the glass. He called for one bottle of wine, and one bowl of punch after another, till the young men fell a yawning, being oppressed with the liquor, and ready to fall asleep. They said, "Come, come, it is time to part." The bridegroom replied, "Aye! aye! what is your hurry?" but followed them up stairs, muttering, "Poor creatures!"

There is a rivulet, across which the Sinclairs went, at a certain hour in the forenoon, to the battle of Flouden, where so many of the Scots were killed; and, as scarcely one returned, the people of Caith-

ness to this day think it unlucky to cross the said rivulet at that hour.

WICK AND THURSO.

Having visited Wick and Thurso, which are considerable little towns, and inhabited by some genteel people, I found nothing that surprised me so much as the probability that a straw hat manufactory was about to be established in them, to supply the London market. Our grandmothers wore pinners and veils, or tartan plaids flung negligently over the head; and sometimes velvet hoods, exactly the shape of their heads, who, before their marriage, wore nothing but their hair, the head dress which nature gave them; and our grandfathers plaited straw for mats to wipe their feet, when all over with mud; but what would they say, were they to look up now, and see our finest ladies ornamenting their heads with straw, plaited into all possible shapes of bonnets, from the old fashioned gipsey hats, worn by our soldiers wives, to the small helmet, or head piece, resembling a barber's bason!

When at Thurso, I felt a strong desire to see Cape Wrath, the north-west point of Scotland, it being part of my plan. Therefore, mounting my horse, I set out to see it; but, of all the roads I ever travelled, this is the most dismal and dreary, and I found that even my horse thought so; as he often wished to return. Indeed, there are so many rivers and torrents to cross, so much bad road, or rather no road at all, such barren, dreary, prospects, and so few well-cultivated spots to diversify the scene, and,

with all, so bad accommodation, even though one has plenty of money, that I was led to think, were the British legislature to enact, that delinquents from the parish of St. Giles, in London, and other parts of the country, should be transported here, instead of Botany Bay, it would be an improvement in our code of laws.

When I arrived at Cape Wrath, I saw the propriety of the name. The rocks that form the shore, though not so stupendous as those at the Red-head in Angus, are very high. The sea ran tremendously high; and, like as I had seen at St. Andrews, the foam was flying over my head for miles into the country. There is no town or village nearer to Cape Wrath, than from thirty to forty miles. It is not one peak or projection into the sea, but, like Cape North, in Lapland, a concave, or portion of a circle, terminated by two promontories or projections. The minister's and the gauger's house are within half a mile of it.

The face of the country is rugged and bleak in the extreme; only a small spot cultivated here and there, and the cattle I saw long haired, lean, and seemingly half starved. Upon seeing the manse of Edracheillis, I felt a strong desire to wait upon the clergyman, and tell him my name and profession; but, having no letters of introduction to him, I did not put him to any trouble; though I wish I had, for my poney's sake, who did not fare so well here.

The minister here has a glebe, not worth, I understand, above five pounds sterling a year; though it be three or four miles long, and nearly as broad; and a farm for about ten pounds per annum, that extends many miles. But though this is the case,

and it supports above fifty cattle, and some hundreds of sheep, yet its value is lessened, both to the proprietor and tenant, from this circumstance, which at once points out what the place is, that the clergyman thinks it surprising if less than ten or a dozen of his cattle fall yearly over the rocks, and break their neck. However, the people here are much attached to it, and, like the Laplanders, with regard to their country, think it one of the finest places on the face of the earth; and it is fortunate they think so. Were not this the case, it would soon become a desert. But this is not surprising, as man, like other animals, is apt to be in love with the country that produced him, and the objects he is habituated to see in his early days, and particularly those of his earliest, tenderest, and most pure and sincere affections. He recollects how sincerely he loved, and how kindly he was taken care of, and how sincerely beloved. It is moral sentiments and associations, playing about the heart, that attach us to things devoid of sentiment and life.

I am led to this remark, from an excise officer I accidentally met with in this part of the country. Glad of information, I accepted an invitation to dine with him, and found him hospitable. In the course of conversation, he told me, that of all the places he had ever seen, he liked Cape Wrath the best; that though the face of the country was rugged, and not much wood on it, yet it produced thousands of cattle and sheep, which were driven to the south country; that wool, butter, and cheese, and every produce of the country, fetches excellent prices; and, when speaking of lord Seaforth, the proprietor

of all the land in this part of the country, and the duke of Gordon, said, that he would think it more honourable to be lord Seaforth's cowherd, than the duke of Gordon's steward. I was the less surprised to find the rest of the people that dined with us in love with Cape Wrath, as they had scarcely ever seen a town, or any road, other than that made by the feet of men and horses, but not a little at the excise officer's opinion; who, in the course of his profession, had been in several parts of the south of Scotland, and north of England. Upon inquiry how they got such excellent wine and coniac brandy, he told me, that some pipes of wine, and casks of brandy had come ashore there, some months before; and that, as nobody claimed it, and there were no names on the casks, they thought there was no harm in now and then making merry with it. Neither the wine nor the brandy was in the least hurt by having been for some time tost about in the ocean.

Some of the people along this coast, like some in other parts of Scotland, particularly on the south-east coast of Fife, do not think it a crime, when a ship is wrecked, to carry off valuable articles from it. They think, if a ship is cast away upon their coast, that providence does it for their good; and, when dead men are washed ashore, they who find them first think themselves fortunate, as they have it in their power to rifle their pockets, and secret the property found on them.

I find there is but little fishing near the Cape. If fish were to come near it, they would be swept along with tremendous waves, and dashed against the rocks.

I was surprised to find a newspaper here, that only eight days before had been printed at London: but this generally takes place even in the middle of winter; for they have a foot post that weekly, summer and winter, though it be near sixty miles, runs between the Cape and Thurso; and which he often does wading to the middle in snow. I had almost forgot to mention the grace which was said before dinner, in the excise officer's house; which, though short, was not unexpressive, and which, so far as I could understand the Gaelic language, was:

God bless the meat,
And them that eat.

It is the opinion of some philosophers, that self interest is the great spring of all our actions; and, notwithstanding their hospitality and seeming attention to those that visit them, from every view I can take of the conduct of the Highlanders in general, as well as those that live about Cape Wrath, and have little communication with the rest of the human race, I am led to believe, there is some truth in the remark. If a Highlander runs a few miles with you, to shew you the way over a hill, without a stipulated sum being promised him, you may depend upon it, he has some peculiar end or other of his own in view. He tries to sift out of you where you dwell, what you are, and what you can do for himself, a son, an acquaintance, or some person to whom he wishes to be of use; and, if he finds you have no money, nor can be any way of use to him, he leaves you, in general, to find the way yourself. And this idea seems to be confirmed by the general conduct of the Scotch,

but particularly the Highlanders. I am very reluctantly compelled, by a regard to truth, to bear witness to the fact noticed by Dr. Samuel Johnson, that the lower sort of the Highlanders are greatly addicted to lying; as well as they formerly were to stealing. In their reports, they are apt to answer what is for their own interest, and what agreeable to the person to whom the report is made, rather than the real matter of fact. Neither, indeed, do they seem to have the same reverence for an oath as the Lowlanders—I speak of the lowest orders: for, as to the higher, they are known to have a nice sense of honour. There are no people in the world more obsequious to their landlords than the Scotch and Highland peasantry, while their leases are short, and they are altogether at the mercy of those landholders; but, give them two or three nineteen years of a lease, or put them in any way independent of your smiles or your frowns, and they at once shew you they are independent. The Highland proprietors are not ignorant of this feature of the character of their tenants. Hence the reluctance of those proprietors to give long leases. If they did, they know their influence is gone. While they keep their tenants dependent on their will and pleasure, they know they can rule over them, and induce them to do what they please. And hence it is, that some of the Highland landholders will not be induced, by any motives, to give their tenants long leases, knowing that the probable chance of war, and their being able to raise a regiment, or any given part of it, will fetch more, in some shape or other, from government, than all the additional rent they could expect from granting a long lease; thus, preferring the be-

ing flattered and followed by a needy peasantry, to seeing the country flourishing, and thousands around them happy as well as themselves.

It is a certain fact, the chieftains in the Highlands are now, for the most part, instead of being almost adored, in general despised. And, why? merely because their lands are let out in large sheep walks, to tenants that are nearly as independent as themselves, and the tenants turned out of their small possessions have no more favours in expectation. The English farmers and tenants do not flatter and fawn so much about the landholders, while their lease is uncertain, nor do they shew such an independent spirit as the Scotch, after their leases are secure. In fact, the English seem to possess greater æquanimity, moderation, and command of temper than the Scots; neither so prone to haughtiness on the one hand, nor to abject submission on the other.

There are thousands of cattle about Cape Wrath, Ross-shire, and the other parts of the Highlands, that never were within the walls of a house; and, so hardy are those animals, that, during deep snow, they, as well as the small horses in many other places, eat the hair of one another's tails for want. This fact may be depended upon, however improbable it may appear. The sheep can shift better in a severe winter than cattle, as they bear the cold better, and are led as it were by instinct, like the rein deer in Lapland, to scrape the snow with their feet from the top of the heath, which they eat as often as they can reach it, having no other subsistance. Cattle seldom scrape with their feet the snow from the heath; though horses sometimes do. Hence they are more frequently

found dead for want, than sheep. Strathnaver, the name of the country, for thirty or forty miles all round, seems to me the least improveable place in Scotland; however, if the moisture, with which it in many places superabounds, were carried off by draining, even this county might add considerably, not only to the individual advantage of lord Seaforth, the proprietor, and his tenants, but to that of the commonwealth to which it belongs.

Though, perhaps, it is not worth mentioning, yet I cannot help observing one peculiarity among the people at Cape Wrath, as well as in many other parts of the Highlands, which is, that as they are of opinion cinnamon is an excellent thing for their health, so they generally put some of it in the tea-pot among their tea; as also in their punch; to give it a flavour. It is observed by Hawthornden, in his history of the Jameses, kings of Scotland, that, when a ship was wrecked on the coast of Galloway, and the people went to inspect the cargo, they thought that the cinnamon, with which the ship was loaded, was only chips for lighting fires, and that they sold it for this purpose to those that chose to buy it, at sixpence the cart load, which it seems several of the better sort of people bought at that price; but were surprised that the chips, when they put them in the fire, sent forth so fine a smell. But, had the lowest of the people at the farthest part of Scotland, at the present day lived in Galloway, when this ship was wrecked, they would have pointed out another use for cinnamon, than lighting fires. Leaving Cape Wrath, and my new friends in that quarter, I made the best of my way back to Thurso, in order to visit John O'Groat's house.

The manners of the people in the interior of the Highlands are much less changed than in any other part of Scotland. The West and North Highlands, the Orkney Islands, and the Hebrides, as well as the eastern and southern parts of Scotland, have in general taken the tone of their manners, customs, prejudices, &c. from the strangers that almost daily intermix with them; but the people in Badenoch, and the centre of the Highlands, where the counties of Inverness, Murray, Aberdeen, and Bamff meet, generally intermarrying among themselves, and, having little intercourse with others, are nearly, at present, what they were some centuries ago. It is certain that the greater part of Berkshire, as well as some other parts of England, like most of the provinces in Holland, is several feet below the level of the sea; but this country, and indeed the cultivated ground all around on the upper parts of the banks of the Spey, particularly the parish of Laggan, the highest in Britain, is elevated nearly a thousand feet above any other cultivated ground in the kingdom. However, as in England, trees of all sizes, even to the height of forty feet, are transplanted, by taking up the roots, and keeping the earth about them, by putting all into a coarse basket, proportionably large; and the basket with its contents, which soon rots, into a hole dug for it at the place where they wish the tree to grow, so, notwithstanding that this place, from its internal and mountainous situation, is in general the least improved, as well as the least improvable part in Scotland, I was glad to see this plan adopted here, and the basket, very properly, both rough and full of holes, so as easily to allow the new roots, that might shoot out previous to the

basket's decaying, to find their way out in quest of food. By this method, it is obvious, trees can be carried, for miles, any where in the midst of summer, without the least danger of their dying; or even, if well watered, being sickly above a day or two. Rhubard, too, I found, as well as some other plants, have here, in the month of June, been found to grow *nine inches* in twenty-four hours; a motion visible to the naked eye, and equal to that of the minute hand of a small watch, whose motion is easily perceived, without the help of a glass. I wish the lords and lairds in Scotland were as sensible of the importance and as attentive to the maintenance of religion and good morals as they in general are to the improvement of the physical qualities and powers of their estates.

I am sorry to say that, though the clergy in general in Scotland are respectable characters, and highly useful, yet many of them, particularly of late, have been appointed to church livings, not so much on account of their piety, virtue, and learning, as on other accounts. I know a clergyman, in Aberdeenshire, who had given up the profession, because he had not talents for it, and no prospect of a living. A certain great man, however, who is fond of standing at a turning loom, because this clergyman could turn a little, play on the bag-pipes, and knew something of the materia medica, gave him a living. When government, the other year, recommended it to the people to be ready to rise *en masse*, the clergyman, now that he had something to lose in the event of a revolution, strongly recommended the measures of government; and, as an inducement to military preparation and exercise, told them, he himself

would follow them to the field, and pledged himself to cut off legs and arms, to sew up all the gashes made by the weapons of the enemy, heal their wounds, and give them medicines, though the wounded should lie as thick as at the battles of Lodi, Marengo, and Jamappe. He pointed out to them what an advantage it would be to them to have a skillful surgeon, ready, at a moment's warning, to pour balm into their wounds. In consequence of this address, the people, who had been to a man willing to rise and defend their property, in case of invasion, became alarmed, and absolutely refused to be drilled.

I know another clergyman, who spends the greater part of his time at his turning loom, carving pieces of wood, bone, lignum vitæ, ivory, steel, brass, &c. into the shape of frogs, mice, rats, sparrows, and the like; and in making, in a smithy he has built at his manse, various kinds of nails, particularly those that smiths use for fastening horse shoes. This gentleman too, pretends to skill in the healing art; but the parishioners, though they must apply to him for spiritual advice, the patron of the church having appointed him their pastor, and there being no other place of public worship near them, have no faith in his skill as a physician, and seldom or never apply to him, except out of compliment, when there is scarcely any thing the matter with them.

But what class of men is perfect? A certain episcopal congregation, I shall only say not fifty miles from Aberdeen, wishing to have a genteel and fashionable clergyman, sent the other year to London for one; who, when they saw and heard him, pleased them much. But this gentleman has already lost

their good opinion, for he generally not only goes, it seems, in a blue jacket to market for provisions, but balls, assemblies, &c. in a cocked hat and full dress; and every Sunday morning, immediately before he goes to church, he visits the kitchen, to give orders about the dinner, as also immediately after he returns; when, if the dinner is not cooked, and particularly the meat not roasted to his mind, he often takes the spit with the meat on it, and belabours his lady for not having it done better. As the Scots are more addicted to excess in drinking than nicety or intemperance in eating, and readier to notice any other faults than their own, the neigbours call this an English vice.

How different the conduct of my hospitable entertainer, the Rev. Mr. L—, near Elgin; who, after superintending the business and education of a numerous family of fine beautiful children, attending to the spiritual as well as temporal concerns of his hearers, and the duty of hospitality to strangers, employs his leisure hours in studies connected with his profession; particularly in geology and others, that serve to illustrate and prove the truth of the Sacred writings!

During my passage from Cape Wrath to the Orkneys, my thoughts ran upon the whole of my travels in Scotland, which now was seen at some distance, and this every moment increased; and the most general impression that remained on my mind was the marked difference between what I had seen of the Highlanders and the Lowlanders. The Lowlanders are certainly advanced far before the Highlanders in civilization and all the arts, and

much more industrious. They are also, though what I am going to say may probably be called in question by some, more chearful and lively than the Highlanders. The Highlanders are fond of dancing, when rouzed by the bagpipe or other music, but they are at bottom gloomy and melancholy. They are, I think, naturally very kindly affectioned to their kindred, and obliging to their neighbours, and very tender-hearted and prone to compassion. They have not any very accurate notions of the natural turpitude of either lying or stealing, though they are afraid of the gallows. They are still, after all the operation of a free government, less apt to regard principles than persons. They will stick at nothing that is desired by a great man. In the interior parts there are yet striking remains of savage manners.

I am led to this remark from what happened to a beautiful woman, with whom I happened to dine lately, on the borders of Badenoch. This lady being handsome, though poor, was courted by many, and among others by a Mr. Macg—r, major domo to colonel G—. One day Macg—r came running to his master saying, "Oh, Sir! Green, the handsome sergeant, has this day married my favourite, the young woman you have often heard me mention. I saw her since it happened, and she is willing, though married, to come with me this evening, if you will protect us. Upon the colonel saying he would, Macg—r immediately set out on horseback; and, it being about the shortest day and dark, succeeded in bringing her privately from Green and the wedding people, who were all danc-

ing and happy. Finding the bride gone, Green suspected Macg—r, and immediately set out for the colonel's, with many others, armed with muskets, swords, pistols, clubs, staves, &c. demanding his wife. The doors being fast and barricadoed, the colonel from the upper windows replied, "She is not your wife, as the marriage was not consummated." —"True; but it was done before."—"That signifies nothing in the eye of the law. It should have been done after, otherwise the marriage is not worth a farthing. The lady has fled hither for protection; therefore, if you do not be gone, you will be shot at from the windows."

The colonel, who had an elegant house, and had saved about ten thousand pounds, seeing such a beautiful woman, although above sixty years of age, was determined, if possible, that neither Green nor Macg—r should have any business with her; and so managed the matter, by putting a thousand pounds in her hand, that she became with child, and brought forth to him a fine boy. The colonel's relations, who hoped to be his heirs, took the alarm, lest he should marry her; and one evening, when the colonel was from home, and all was quiet, four men disguised, and with crapes over their faces, rushed into the room where she was, and, seizing her, with a pair of scissars they had, cut off her ears, and immediately ran off, each in a different direction from the house. But they were mistaken: for this maiming, which is by the laws of Britain death, instead of lessening, increased the colonel's attachment to her. When she had a second son to him, he made his will, leaving the greater

part of his fortune to her and her children; and actually would have married her, had he not, by accident, discovered that it was doubtful whether the children were his or Macg—r's. She was married, though Green is alive, to this Macg—r, when I saw her; but though the dinner, wines, &c. were excellent, and I received much attention and some information from them, yet, had I known their history when she and her husband invited me to dine with them, I would not have accepted the invitation.

In Glasgow too, the other year, a boy that had been twice or thrice in prison for stealing, coming into a mercer's shop, picked something from the counter, and was going away. The master of the shop seeing this, and recollecting him, immediately took up a pair of scissars from the counter, cropped his ears, and desired him to put these in his pocket.

ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Having crossed the Pentland Firth, or the narrow sea between the main land and the Orkneys, I travelled on as fast as ferries would permit, till I came to Kirkwall, in order to see their fair, or yearly market, which continues for eight days, and may be termed the carnival of these islands. And here I found myself highly entertained, as almost every body from the other islands was here. I saw, as it were, the whole people and riches of the islands at once. Indeed, this season is their grand festival.

They were all in their holiday clothes; and I confess, even in London, I scarcely ever saw so much money afloat. In one place I saw nearly two thousand pounds sterling given and received, being all in hundred pound parcels, in the course of a few minutes. There were here booksellers, pedlars, grocers, wholesale and retail dealers, from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, &c. &c. Being acquainted with the Rev. Mr. Allison, minister of St. Andrews and Deerness, I made his house, at his request, my head-quarters. It was amusing to see the medley of busy faces at Kirkwall upon this occasion. The samples of fish, butter, cheese, feathers, grain, quills, &c. &c. and draughts on Edinburgh, Leith, Glasgow, but particularly London, were giving and receiving every where; besides a vast quantity of gold and silver in circulation. Here were to be seen as fashionable and as well-dressed people as any in the capital of the kingdom: for, it seems, there are dolls or figures both of men and women, as big as a child, sent here frequently from London, that the milliners, mantua-makers, and tailors, may see the newest fashions of gowns, head-dresses, coats, breeches, hats, &c. &c. As I was looking at the miniature figure of a man, made of stuffed shambeau leather, pointing out the reigning fashion at London the week before, the man having it there on sale, told me its price was only half a guinea, imagining, I suppose, that I meant to buy it for the use and inspection of my tailor.

The island of Pomona, or Mainland, in which

Kirkwall is situate, and where this fair, or market, is held, is about thirty-two miles long, and in some places nine broad. It has some excellent harbours, to which ships run in distress, and nine parish churches.

I should suppose that this country, notwithstanding the mirth, happiness, and bustle I saw, must be cold and dreary in winter, as there is scarcely any wood to beautify the country, or keep it warm, and almost all their fuel is imported from England, which, notwithstanding that a late tax is taken off, considering freight, &c. &c. must be at an expense the generality of the people cannot afford.

I found my friend, Mr. Allison, the clergyman, lived very comfortably. He had a tolerably good house, consisting of eight apartments, besides a kitchen, cellars, and out-houses. He had a large garden, well stocked with fruit-trees and kitchen stuffs, and this, with his glebe, which indeed cost him a hundred guineas in enclosing, in a great measure supports his family. He has besides about a hundred guineas of stipend yearly. It is a shame (though Mr. Allison never does) that the clergy in the Shetland and Orkney Islands should so often wink at their churches being the repositories of smuggled goods, chiefly foreign spirits. The apostle Paul exhorts his converts not to be filled with wine, wherein is excess, but to be filled with the *spirit*. The people in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, perhaps, misinterpret this text.

As I saw many of the people of the Shetland Islands at the market at Kirkwall, particularly from Mainland, which is the largest of them, being

nearly sixty miles long and twenty broad, and of which Lerwick is the capital, I did not go to see them. The manners, customs, and language of these islanders are nearly the same as in the Orkneys, only their countenances are darker, and seemingly more weatherbeaten.

There being an elegant ball one evening at Kirkwall, during the market week, I went to see it; and must say, that though I have seen assemblies at Edinburgh, London, Bath, &c. yet I scarcely ever saw more mirth, innocence, elegant dancing, or more handsome and elegantly dressed ladies in my life; and I have reason to conclude, that had any of the English squires and dashing beaux been there, they would have thought so; but though the better sort of people in the Orkneys seem to live comfortably, yet I am afraid, that, as happens in many other places, the common people do not. Indeed, in the market, some of them, though seemingly happy, exhibited strong marks of poverty; and I was sorry to see these poor people so much imposed upon by those who visit them. If I mistake not, almost all the goods in the market were either old and not fresh, or they were what is termed bad or unmarketable goods.

I was much pleased to find here a number of weavers, &c. employed by the Glasgow manufacturers, and two Miss Sinclairs employing near a hundred girls, from six to twenty years of age, in the manufacture of plait and straw hats. The straw is bought from the farmers in England, cut in certain lengths, and after being milled and dressed, is plaited; and, as is done in Caithness and

many other places, sewed and made up into bonnets of various shapes and colours, for the London market and home consumption, Leghorn and other hats having almost entirely given place to this species of manufacture. I saw no shoes made of plaited straw here, though I observed them at Bedford, in England; and some of the dashing ladies on the south side of the Tweed are beginning to use this elegant ware.

Having been invited to witness a marriage during my stay in the Orkneys, I was peculiarly pleased with the address of the clergyman to the young people who had entered the pale of matrimony, saying to the young husband, "You, having presented this woman with a ring, which is emblematical of eternity; and, as you have given her that, which has no end, so, by this action, you signify that your love shall have no end. And remember that you, the woman, by accepting the ring, which, though you turn it round a thousand times, you will not come to the end of it, promise that your love, affection, and *obedience*, to that man, who gave you it, shall be perpetual." Among the Egyptian hieroglyphics, eternity was represented by a fish with its tail in its mouth; so I am of opinion, with the good clergyman of the Orkneys, that there is more meant by the giving and receiving a ring than is generally supposed.

Every one knows that the Orkney and Shetland Islands formerly belonged to the kingdom of Denmark and Norway, and that they passed under the sovereignty of Scotland only in the fifteenth century. It is not many years since the Norse lan-

guage was spoken in some of the interior or central parishes of Pomona, and still later that it was understood at least in Shetland. But the most curious remains of the Norwegian government in the Orkneys are the UDALLERS, whose landed possessions are allodial, and which, as the territorial estates in Norway are at this day, were, for I know not if I can speak in the present time, redeemable, on paying the price for which they were mortgaged by the next of kin, as was the case among the Jews under the Mosaic Law. My stay in the Orkneys was, by my plan, so short, that I had not time to make inquiries, or receive accurate information concerning the UDALLERS, their number, circumstances, and whether the redemption of their estates was often or ever claimed. I regret this the more, that Dr. Barry, in his excellent and really admirable History of the Orkneys, which I have since seen, does not give any satisfactory account of the present state of these people; on every other point he is learned, entertaining, and instructive. He only states, that in the Orkneys allodial have been swallowed up and lost in feudal tenures, in the Orkneys, as in other countries, from the same causes, and some that were peculiar to the Orkneys. He alludes to aristocratical oppression, but does not speak out. By my information, however, there appears to be still a greater number of Udallers than he states; not a few of them were pointed out to me at the fair. They appeared to me to be a poor and dispirited class of men. I was told that they were very indolent, and that it would be better for some of them that they had no estates at all; as, trusting to these small and

insignificant properties, they were very apt to neglect productive industry. I suppose they are pretty much in the situation of the lairds of Abernethey in this respect. I here subjoin an account of the present state of Shetland, communicated to me by a minister of a parish there.

SHETLAND ISLANDS.

The islands of Shetland are situated in the Northern Ocean, between 59°. 50′. and 60°. 50′. of north latitude, the first degree of west longitude from London passing through the centre of the country. Their principal harbour, Bressay Sound, is distant about two hundred and thirty miles from Aberdeen; and between these ports there is a monthly communication by a packet, which, at an average, performs the voyage in forty hours.

The number of these islands is not exactly known, but if those of all sizes are reckoned, must be great, probably not below sixty. The names of the principal are Mainland, Bressay, Whalsey, Feilar, Yell, Unet, Veila, Papa, Burra, Trondra, Fula, and Fair-Isle. Besides these, which are all peopled, there are many small islands that also contain inhabitants, some being occupied by a single family. The Mainland is nearly sixty miles long from south to north; its breadth so irregular, that it cannot be ascertained: however, it is believed there is no spot in it more than three miles distant from the sea. None of the other islands are above five or six miles in length or breadth. The face of the country, in general, is rugged, and its appearance barren, to a de-

gree that can hardly be conceived by the natives of a happier land. Some patches of cultivated ground appear along the margin of the sea; but every where else nothing presents itself to the astonished observer but bleak moors and morasses, interspersed with huge grey rocks, and separated by gloomy lakes, or creeks, and inlets of the ocean. Not a tree nor shrub is to be seen. Even the heath appears to be stunted, and seems to languish under the baneful influence of the northern blasts. But although at present no tree is able to raise its head in Shetland, an universal persuasion seems to prevail that the country was once covered with wood. It would, however, be difficult to account for the origin of this belief, which, in the opinion of the writer of these notes, is entirely destitute of foundation. The reasons of this opinion are as follow: The greater part of the Shetland Islands are covered with moss, at an average five feet in depth. Moss is well known to possess a most powerful antiseptic quality, and to preserve incorrupt, for a long series of ages, whatever vegetable or even animal substances it happens to contain. But though the present writer examined, with minute attention, many spots in these mosses, whence peats had been dug, he never could discern the least vestige of a tree: neither timber, bark, nor leaves; and, though he often made inquiries on this subject of intelligent natives, he never heard any person say that he had seen the remains of wood in any of the Shetland mosses. There must, however, have been discovered in *them*, trees, or parts of trees, if wood, at any former period, had been produced in Shetland; and, consequently, the cir-

cumstance of none ever being found affords a clear indication that wood never grew in the country. Whether or not any remains of trees are to be met with in Iceland and the Orkneys, the present writer is uncertain; though, till he shall see the affirmative established by good authority, he must hesitate to give his assent.

Though no trees will grow in Shetland without the shelter of a wall, there are some to be found in gardens, several of which have been planted many years ago, and of some the writer has had an opportunity of observing the progress from their arrival in Shetland. In general, they grow with sufficient vigour till they have attained the height of the surrounding wall; then, in summer, they put forth shoots to the length of six or seven inches above it, which are invariably destroyed by the blasts of the succeeding winter; so that, in a few years, the tree acquires a bushy stunted appearance at the top, similar to a hedge, the top of which has for a long time been annually cut. Thus it is pretty evident that the cause, which prevents the growth of trees in these islands, is the frequent and violent winds which prevail there, and which, in autumn and winter, invariably blast the vegetation of the preceding summer. In Shetland, if we except the months of June and July, there is scarcely a week that passes without a severe gale; and its climate, without exaggeration, may be described as an intermitting storm. In fact, no tree could withstand it, without the benefit of complete shelter; but, as there is no reason to imagine that the climate of Shetland was ever more favourable in this respect, so it is impossible to believe that ever trees grew in the coun-

try; and till a total change of climate takes place, none ever can grow. Some writers have ascribed the want of trees in these northern islands to the influence of the sea air, but that this has any qualities inimical to their growth does not seem to be the case. In Norway, under the same latitude as Shetland, trees grow to a large size on the very brink of the ocean; and in Shetland, when planted in an enclosure, they grow as rapidly and vigorously as in Scotland, till they have reached the height of the surrounding wall, above which they are unable to raise their heads. If the sea air was what checked their growth, would not the marine effluvia operate before they had reached the top of the wall, as well as afterwards, since the air both below and above that level must be equally impregnated with these effluvia?

Excepting these violent gales of wind alluded to, the climate of Shetland is not much different from that of the north of Scotland. In winter, snow lies but for a short time, and frost is never intense. But as there is no severe cold in winter, so there is little genial warmth in the summer; the sun, during the months of June, July, and August, being often obscured by fogs. On the shortest day the sun is five hours above the horizon, and on the longest nineteen. For a month before and after the summer solstice, there is indeed no darkness; at midnight the refracted rays of the sun still illuminate the atmosphere, and a sufficiency of light is enjoyed for every purpose. The lark, too, at this season, may be heard singing during the whole night. In autumn and winter the aurora borealis is more frequent

and more brilliant than in any other part of Great Britain; its coruscations are wonderfully vivid, and at times seem to dart almost instantaneously across the whole firmament. A curious fact in meteorology deserves to be mentioned: thunder and lightning rarely or never occur in summer, as in most other countries, though these phenomena are very common, and the last sometimes fatal, in winter.

By the enumeration which took place in 1802, in consequence of an act of parliament, the inhabitants of Shetland were found to amount to twenty thousand one hundred and eighty-six. The great body of the people are of Danish extraction, as appears from their fair florid complexions, and from their christian names.* In general, they have no family surnames, but to their own Christian name each of the sons and daughters joins that of the father; the former adding to it son, the latter daughter. This, as may easily be conceived, is an awkward and most inconvenient custom, rendering it difficult, and frequently impossible, to establish their propinquity to any of their relations that die abroad. This mode of affixing names is of Danish origin, and is said to be still practised in the Danish dominions. Till about a century ago, Norse, or Danish, was the common language of Shetland; and although it has now ceased to be vernacular, the common people speak English with a foreign accent and idiom, and use a great number of words derived from their former language. Their speech, indeed, is not intel-

* Such, for instance (among the men), as Magnus, Erick, Olla, &c.; and (among the women) Sweta, Ingagirtha, &c.

ligible to a stranger till he has heard it for some months.

The whole, or almost the whole of the landed property in these islands, is in the hands of families of Scotch and English extraction. Lord Dundas possesses extensive feudal rights in the country. He is likewise admiral, an office to which it is believed there are several lucrative privileges attached. His lordship has also considerable landed estates in Shetland. The number of proprietors is great, and their rents may vary from one thousand pounds sterling to five pounds sterling a year. The mode of living of higher ranks, their houses, furniture, dress, and manners, are much the same as those of the like description in Scotland. Their houses, indeed, are much less comfortable, owing, it is said, to the wet and stormy climate, which is thought to render them damp and smoky; although it is more probable that these faults are occasioned by the unskilfulness and ignorance of their workmen. Be this as it may, a stranger can hardly fail to perceive, that their comfort would be materially improved, if their inhabitants would pay some attention to their proper ventilation, and exact from their servants a greater regard to cleanliness. The gentry of Shetland deserve the praise of hospitality, and, in general, plenty is to be found at their tables.

The lower ranks are dirty in their clothes and persons; and their houses are low, damp, smoky huts, which they inhabit in common with their cattle. There is nothing particular in their dress, except that the men, when they go to sea, wear above their clothes sheep-skin jackets, which are well adapted

to defend them from the spray; and that both sexes, instead of shoes, for the most part wear a sort of sandals on their feet, called *rivelins*. These are formed of part of an ox's hide, cut out immediately after the beast is slaughtered, and fastened to the foot by means of a thong. Fish, of many different species, constitute a great proportion of their food, and these they eat along with potatoes, using but little bread. It is indeed surprizing how small a quantity of meal they need; a boll for each member of a family being reckoned an ample year's allowance. They consume an immense quantity of coarse black tea, of which both sexes appear to be equally fond. It is likewise to be regretted, that they discover a great partiality for spirituous liquors, and seldom fail to indulge in them to excess when they can procure them. As no leases are granted in Shetland to those of the lower ranks, they are all tenants at will. A large proprietor either manages his estate himself, or lets it for a certain term to a person who is known by the name of Tacksman, and who again lets it out in small lots from year to year. The proprietor and the tacksman both manage their tenantry according to the same plan. Every tenant gets a small portion of land, generally about three acres, for which he pays, perhaps at an average, ten shillings per acre, public burdens included. But besides this rent, he is uniformly bound to fish for cod, ling, and tusk, during three of the summer months, and to deliver the fish he catches to his landlord at a stipulated price; and it is understood that this price is regulated in such a manner as to afford the landlord as much

profit at least, from the sale of the fish thus caught, as is equal to the sum he receives in name of rent. The cod fishing is carried on by boats containing six men each; and to the purchase of these, and the fishing implements, the landlord contributes nothing.

The Shetland fishermen are very hardy and expert. During the summer, they go to the distance of twelve and fifteen leagues in the small open boats already mentioned, where they seldom fail to catch great quantities of ling, cod, and tusk.* When the fish are brought to land, they are opened, and then weighed by the landlord or tacksman; they are afterwards salted, and carefully dried in the open air until fit for exportation. It is computed that the average value of fish exported annually from Shetland is fifteen thousand pounds sterling. It is, however, to be regretted, that the poor men, who undergo so much labour, and are exposed to so great danger in catching them, reap but little of the profit, thirty shillings being generally the utmost they can make at this business in the course of a summer.

A stranger ought to be cautious in finding fault with long established customs in any country he may visit, or in proposing plans of improvement, as there may be reasons for the former, and obstacles to the latter, which a short observation does not enable him to perceive. When the writer of

* The tusk is a truly northern fish, being seldom caught farther south than Shetland. It is shorter than the cod, but thicker in proportion to its length, and when eaten, of a more delicate taste. In the market it is more in demand than either cod or ling.

these pages went first to Shetland, he imputed the poverty and distressed state of the common people to the circumstance of their being obliged to dispose of their fish to their landlords; and had little doubt but their emancipation from that bondage would quickly and effectually improve their situation; and he believes that most people who have paid only a short visit to these islands have entertained the same ideas on the subject. Deeply impressed with these sentiments, a young gentleman,* who possesses considerable landed estates in Shetland, in the year 1800, granted to all his tenants leases of considerable endurance, at a fair and moderate rent, with liberty to sell their fish to the best account. But, in the course of three or four years, they all got into debt, were unable to pay their rents, and unanimously requested leave to resign their leases, and to be restored to their former situation. This fact is mentioned, not from a wish to insinuate that no improvement of the situation of the lower ranks can be attempted with any hopes of success, but only that improvement must be effected by slow and careful advances; and that, perhaps, the poverty of the people arises rather from the nature of the soil and climate, which refuse any liberal reward to the labours of the husbandman, than from oppression on the part of the landed proprietors of Shetland. The zeal for emancipation from all bondage is not always, nor perhaps, often, according to knowledge.

The state of agriculture in Shetland is indeed wretched, and by no means calculated to obviate the effects of a sterile soil, and unpropitious climate,

* Robert Hunter, of Lunna.

The land being divided into so small farms, that only few of the farmers can keep a plough, is in general cultivated with the spade; and, from the shortness of the time that can be spared from the fishing, this operation is most carelessly performed. The plough, which, perhaps, may be used for cultivating one-third of the arable land throughout the different islands, is a very awkward machine. It has only one stilt. The coulter is not much larger than a carving knife, and consequently only scratches the ground. The sock and head alone cut and turn over the furrow, which, however, they do so imperfectly, that a person must always follow with a spade, to complete the operation. Attached to this plough, by a rope at least ten feet in length, the cattle are yoked four or six abreast; whilst a driver, with his face to the plough, walks before them, after his back, and occasionally, in the Irish style, strikes them on the forehead, to make them advance. The only articles raised by the farmer, are, Scotch barley, black oats, and potatoes. Of the first of these, the crop is commonly good; of the second, generally poor. The potatoes, when properly cleaned, during their growth, yield a tolerable produce; but as the farmer is so much occupied in the summer months by the fishing, they are, for the most part, neglected; and the crop, of course, but scanty. It has been already observed, that neither the soil nor climate of Shetland is favourable to agriculture; but there can be no doubt, that care and skill united might effect wonderful improvements. It will readily occur, that the two employments of agriculture and fishing must be separated, before they can both be prosecuted with success: indeed, at present, the business of

farming is made to yield in every instance to the fishing, which last is managed with much skill and industry. In order, then, that agriculture may attain that perfection which the nature of the country will allow, the two employments of farming and fishing must be disjoined, and the size of the farms greatly enlarged. Many valuable productions, familiar to the Scotch farmer, but almost unknown in Shetland, might be introduced; for, from some trials (on a small scale indeed), it appears that turnips, red clover, and the most productive species of oats, may be cultivated with abundant success. A great obstacle to the improvement of Shetland is the want of roads, and consequently of all kind of wheel carriages. No attempt has ever been made to form a road, except in a single instance, where one has been constructed from Lerwick, the principal town, for six miles towards the west: the advantages, however, arising from it are so much felt, that it is hoped the communication, through many other parts of the country, will soon be opened up by the like means.

The Shetland horses are well known, as some of them are to be seen in almost every part of Britain. They are little attended to in their own country; and seldom receive any allowance of fodder, even in the severest winters. One circumstance in their natural history deserves to be noted; they are longer lived than any other known variety of the species, being deemed fit for their ordinary labour till the age of thirty years.

The cattle of this country are diminutive in size, though less so than the horses. Few handsome beasts are to be seen among them, which is perhaps owing

to no pains being bestowed in picking out proper bulls; the weakest and least promising calves being always kept for that purpose. When fully fed, the Shetland beef is excellent. Fresh beef, however, as well as mutton, is only to be had from the month of July, till December; for as there is no green winter food in the country, and always a scanty supply of fodder, stock of every kind is reduced to skin and bone, before the grass vegetates, and the whole summer is necessary to bring them into flesh. Were turnips and clover raised in sufficient quantities, and proper bulls and cows picked out for the purpose of breeding, there can be no doubt that the Shetland cattle would soon be greatly improved, both in shape and size.

The Shetland sheep, whose chief value is the excellence of their wool, seem to be a distinct variety of the species. They are small sized, and of various colours. There is an astonishing difference, in point of quality, between the wool that grows on different parts of the same animal; some of it being equal to the best Spanish, and some very coarse—mere "lana caprina." The wool is not shorn, as in other countries, but plucked off by the hand; which enables the persons employed to sort it more readily and much more completely. Nor does this operation, here called *rooing*, seem to give the animal the smallest pain, if performed at the proper season, when the wool is almost ready to drop off.

The Shetland pastures are coarse, consisting chiefly of an assemblage of rough high-stalked grasses, called *lubba* by the natives; nor is the mutton well flavoured. It is a curious circumstance, however, that,

in the island of Bressay, during the summer season, the common rye grass (lolium perenne) is to be seen growing naturally, and in considerable quantities. Little attention is paid to the sheep. They are not kept together in flocks, but suffered to wander at large, along with the horses and cattle: the corn fields being defended from their depredations by high earthen walls.

To enumerate and describe the various kinds of fish caught on the Shetland shores, would be a work of no small labour. Every species found on any part of the British coast is to be met with here. There is none of more extensive use to the inhabitants, as an article of food, than a small grey fish, called the sillok, which seems to be that species known, in the Moray Frith, by the name of seath, and which are called podleys in the Frith of Forth. Of these, immense quantities are caught in Shetland, in almost every month of the year; and, from their livers, oil to a great value is extracted. Whales are often seen spouting in the seas around Shetland. Large shoals of a small species are frequently embayed; upwards of two hundred having sometimes been forced ashore and killed at one time. These, if under a certain size, belong to the proprietor of the adjacent lands; but any, that are so large as not to be dragged by a plough of oxen are claimed by the admiral.

There are few wild quadrupeds in Shetland; but an immense variety of sea fowl. Here are no foxes, pole-cats, badgers, hares, moor-fowls, partridges, magpies, nor rooks; neither are there any serpents, frogs, nor toads. Shetland is

rich in minerals. There is a greater variety of stone, and much of it is impregnated with metallic ores. In the southern extremity of the Mainland, a copper mine has been wrought for the five last years. For some time, ore was found in abundance, which, when assayed, yielded forty-four per cent. Of late, however, some obstacles that have arisen, the nature of which is unknown to the writer of these notes, have considerably abated the hopes of the adventurers engaged in the business.

The coast of Shetland, with a very few exceptions, is rocky, and uncommonly bold. This circumstance renders it generally fatal to vessels that are driven on it by storms, or approach it inadvertently in the dark nights of winter. The great length of the country is likewise the cause of many vessels being fatally intercepted in their course. Not a winter passes without several shipwrecks happening; and in the winter 1799—1800, no less than nineteen ships were known to have been lost on these shores. Of many of these, not two planks were ever found together; but at the bottom of the rocks, where any of them had been cast away, were seen the fragments of the vessel, and part of the cargo, and sometimes the bodies of the drowned mariners. The common people of Shetland, like those of more polished countries, are too much inclined to plunder the property of the shipwrecked; but their conduct, in this particular, will, perhaps, be viewed with less indignation, when it is added, that, on these melancholy occasions, they do every thing in their power to save the lives of those who are in danger; and that many

a sailor, whose vessel has been wrecked on these shores, owes his life to the fearless exertions of the hardy fishermen of Shetland.

In some places, the rocky shores rise perpendicularly to an astonishing height. Noss-head, in the small island of that name, presents a front to the sea, as straight as a wall. The exact height of it is not known, as indeed, from the stormy sea which dashes at its base, it would be no easy matter to measure it; but it must be very great, since it is distinctly visible from a small open boat, at the distance of forty-five miles. Nothing can be conceived more sublime, and even awful, than the view from this lofty precipice. In one direction, the eye stretches over an immeasurable extent of ocean; in another, all the Shetland isles, in amazing number, and boundless variety of form, are seen, as on a map.

If the attention is withdrawn from these distant views to nearer objects, some very striking circumstances occur. The observer is so much elevated above the ocean as scarcely to hear those surges faintly murmur, which he sees dashing with great fury against the bottom of the rock; and the sea-fowl, which are generally flying in great numbers about the middle of the precipice, seem no larger than the insects that come forth to sport in a fine summer evening. It indeed requires some resolution to look over the edge of this rock, without uneasiness. What then shall we think of the courage of those persons who venture to traverse its whole surface? Yet this is done every spring, for the sake of obtaining the young sea-fowl that are hatched on the ledges of the precipice. There is a family in the neighbourhood, who,

from time immemorial, have practised this dangerous business; in which, about twenty years ago, one of them perished. The man, who is to descend the rock, ties a rope round his waist, the other end being fastened to a strong stake at the top. He then goes down to the different places where the wild-fowl are hatched, and, having killed them, throws them down to some persons who are stationed at the bottom in a boat. Should his foot slip, he must trust for safety entirely to the rope.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Noss-head, and on the shore of the same island, is another object of no less curiosity. On the south side of Noss, at the distance of one hundred and fifty feet, is a small island, containing about two acres of excellent pasture. The sides of this island are quite perpendicular, and about three hundred feet high; which is also the height of the adjacent part of Noss. Over this tremendous chasm, some daring adventurer, by climbing up the rock, has contrived to lay two bends of a strong cable, attached on each side to a firm stake. From this rope a sort of cradle is suspended, and runs along it, by means of a handle at each of the four corners, which are perforated, and through which the rope passes. The object of this contrivance being to convey sheep to be fed in the summer season, on the small island, a man goes into the cradle, and has one of these animals, bound, put in along with him. This, together with himself, he hauls across, lifts it out, and returns for another. The island will fatten about fourteen sheep in one season.

There is a good deal of trade carried on in Shetland. Many of the landlords, and all the tacksmen,

keep warehouses stored with such articles as the tenants may require. There are, besides, many shopkeepers, perhaps from thirty to forty, in the town of Lerwick; but it is to be regretted, that too great a proportion of their sales consists of spirituous liquors and tea. The writer of this sketch was informed, by the gentleman at the head of the excise in Shetland, that he has known 40,000 lb. of coarse black tea to be sold in the course of one year.

Lerwick contains about fourteen hundred inhabitants. It is built on the west side of Bressay Sound, in the form of an amphitheatre, a situation and shape, susceptible of much beauty, had the houses been regularly laid down. Bressay Sound is situated on the east side of the Mainland, at an equal distance from its southern and northern extremities. It is formed between that island and the small one of Bressay, and is one of the safest and most capacious harbours in the British dominions. Adjoining to the north end of Lerwick is a small irregularly-formed fortification, called Fort Charlotte, which mounts eight or ten pieces of cannon towards the harbour. It was built by the order of Oliver Cromwell, while protector; who garrisoned it with sixty men, under the command of a colonel Sinclair; and from these soldiers several of the landed proprietors of Shetland are said to be descended. It had fallen into decay after the death of Oliver; but was repaired during the last American war, and barracks erected in it sufficient to accommodate four hundred men. It is generally garrisoned by two hundred soldiers.

The remains of antiquity in Shetland are not numerous. At Scallaway, a village on the west side of the Mainland, are the walls of a large irregular castle,

built by Patrick Stuart, earl of Orkney, who was afterwards beheaded for high treason. It is placed in perhaps the most pleasant situation in Shetland, and must have been carefully constructed to remain so complete as it is, after being exposed, without a roof, to the storms of two hundred polar winters.

Along the eastern coast of Shetland, there is a range of circular towers, situated on eminences in view of each other, called burghs, and which are in different degrees of preservation; some being in ruins, and one, at least, in the little isle of Musa, perfectly entire. They appear to have been all of similar construction, about twelve feet diameter within walls, and built of stones cut for the purpose, and laid with great care, though without cement. The tower in Musa is rather more than twenty feet high, and has a winding passage in the inside of the wall, which gradually ascends from the base to the top.

These towers, from the name of Brugh being given them, are generally believed to have been erected by the Danes; but the writer of this sketch is of opinion that they are of Pictish origin.* They are evidently intended as watch towers, which could communicate with each other, and alarm the country in case of any hostile invasion from the east. Now it is known that the Danes obtained complete possession of Orkney and Shetland, which were formerly inhabited by the Picts, about the beginning of the eleventh century; and that the Danish authority was firmly established at that time, in these islands, by an uncle of William the Conqueror of

* The Picts and Danes, both of Scandinavian extraction, were originally the same people, and continued long to have many customs common to both.

England, who assumed the title of earl of Orkney. It is evident, however, that, after this event, the Danes in Shetland had nothing hostile to dread from any invasion from the east; but, on the contrary, were often receiving assistance from that quarter. There existed no motive, therefore, that could induce them to erect such a long line of watch towers. But, before the final subjugation of the country by the Danes, it is natural to think that many partial invasions would take place, and that the Picts would be at much pains to guard against these attacks, always so distressful, but particularly destructive, when the invaders are barbarians. It is therefore highly probable that these burghs were built, at this æra, by the Picts. To strengthen this conjecture, it may be remarked, that there is a complete similarity between the circular town in Musa, and Dun Dornadilla in Sutherlandshire, as described in Cordiner's Antiquities of Scotland, which last building is generally ascribed to the Picts. Nor does the name of burgh, which is given to these edifices, and which is Danish, weaken this hypothesis; since the name which the Picts may have given them could not now be in use, as the name of every object in Shetland, even of hills, which retain their appellations, for the longest period, is evidently Danish.

There are also some curious remains of antiquity to be seen on the banks of a small brook in the Mainland, which separates the parishes of Sandsling and Nesling. These are a large collection of curious weapons, formed of a very hard blue stone. The one, which the writer of this sketch saw, was shaped very like the bludgeons which modern voyagers have described, as being used by the inhabitants of the

South Sea Islands. One of its edges was very sharp, and it was used by its present owner, for breaking loaf sugar. It was, and probably is, in the possession of the minister of Sandsling. These weapons lie in a very remote district, which may partly account for their not being removed; but, in addition to this, from a superstitious notion, the common people look upon it as sacrilege to carry off any of them. They say, at some remote period, their country was invaded, and the enemy carried every thing before them, committing terrible devastation; that some superior being, commiserating their calamities, descended and put these arms into their hands; that with them they attacked the foe, conquered, and exterminated them; after which, their ancestors deposited these celestial weapons in the spot where they now lie, with an injunction to their posterity never to remove them.

Leaving the Orkneys, and my good friends at Kirkwall, I set sail for the

HEBRIDES, OR WESTERN ISLES.

After having been tost about for three days, and that too not far from my old acquaintance, Cape Wrath, I at length was safely landed, with my poney, at Stornaway, the most flourishing town in the Lewes, or Hebrides. The Orkney Islands, though many of them be uninhabited, are about thirty, and the Shetlands, great and small, nearly double that number. The Western Islands are more numerous than both, amounting in all, great and small, to three hundred, and of much more importance. The largest

of them is Lewis, or Harris, for they are both one island, which belongs to the shire of Ross, and a hundred miles long, and nearly fifteen broad, and is visited by myriads of herrings annually, which, are chased thither by the dog fish. Stornaway, the chief town, has an excellent harbour, some shipping, and a few branches of manufacture lately set on foot, as also some foreign trade. There are some excellent houses here; and such is the fashion, or rather craze of the people, that they choose to have a fine house even if they should have almost nothing to furnish it withal, and borrow money to build it. Indeed, masons, slaters, carpenters, &c. flock, particularly in summer, to the Western Isles, where they often earn five shillings a day; and, so neatly are the houses in general finished, particularly in the outside, that you would think all the inhabitants rich and opulent.

Macdonald of the Isles, the great proprietor here, has fortunately a taste for improvement, and is disposed to encourage this taste in others.

The fisheries, the burning of sea-weed into kelp, an ingredient much used in the manufacture of glass, &c. employs many people here; and, as far as I am a judge, the only chance of effectually checking that spirit of emigration, which unfortunately, both for themselves and the country, has got afloat in the west and north of Scotland, is for the proprietors to improve large portions of their waste lands by a tontine, or otherwise to build villages, establish manufactures, suited to the nature of the place, and give liberal encouragement to those that settle as fishers in the highlands and islands. The

Highlanders should be enticed, not compelled, to stay at home. The idea of restraint in general rather increases than diminishes our propensities to wander, and the late act of parliament respecting emigration, though it may serve as a momentary check, has but served to encrease the evil it was intended to destroy.

A handsome young man, having married here lately, two dashing beaux, who happened to be at the wedding, by way of fun, as they termed it, thought proper, towards the hour of going to bed, to carry away the bride about a quarter of a mile from the house, that the young man might be set a wondering what was become of her. Indeed, it happened as they expected; for the young man, and every one in the house, became extremely uneasy about her; and it was not till after near an hour that they discovered she had been detained by these dashing strangers, though they meant no harm, against her will. But these young men paid for their folly, and were obliged to lay down a hundred guineas, as a fine, for sporting with an innocent young man and woman's feelings. A trick of the same kind was lately played by a lawyer and an acquaintance of mine at Brechin, near Montrose; but the young married couple having a friend acquainted with the law, after a paper war, he made his brother Quill, who had detained her, with two or three acquaintance, to pay for his conduct a handsome sum, to pacify the resentment of the young married man. The law, it seems, and I think justly, does not permit offenders of this kind to pass unpunished.

Leaving Lewis, and passing North and South Uist, I arrived at the island of

BARRA,

Which belongs to Macneil of that name. It is from nine to ten miles long, and about six broad. It is amply stored with cattle, and has a parish church in it, though only one or two families are protestants; the rest of the inhabitants, with the proprietor at their head, being of the Roman Catholic persuasion.

The established clergyman at Barra has an easy life, having a good house, glebe, and offices, with more than a hundred pounds a year, and generally not above half a dozen hearers on Sunday.

They have a curious, though I believe common, way of catching seals here. In a narrow place, where there is generally a current the one way or the other, caused by the ebbing and flowing of the sea, a person stands with a spear, and stabs the seals as they pass and repass. The house, or hut, in which he sits, projects over the stream, and sitting or standing, with a steady eye, looking downward when he sees it coming, having his spear in his hand ready, he pushes it down, and not once in a hundred fails to kill.

This mode of killing seals generally affords Mr. Macneil, the proprietor of the island, some hundreds a year. Great numbers of salmon are killed in this way in the river Spey and the other rivers in Scotland, which they call stream fishing. At

Barra, as at most, and I believe all the Western Islands, there is the utmost abundance of shell fish, such as limpets, muscles, oysters, clams, spout fish, lobsters, crabs, and, above all, cockles. Upon the great sand on the north end of Barra, cockles are found in such quantities, that, in times of great scarcity, all the families on the island, which are about two hundred, resort to this for their daily subsistence. In two summers of very great scarcity, not less than from one hundred to two hundred horse-loads of cockles were taken off the sands at low water every day of the spring tides during the months of May, June, July, and August. Shell fish is a great resource, I understand, to the people of the islands, at all times. They are in the habit of boiling limpets, clams, and other species, and making use of the broth, mixed, or boiled up, with a little oatmeal.

The collecting and burning of sea-weed into kelp is not only a considerable employment to the inhabitants, but also a source of wealth to the proprietor, as it is generally sold at from fifteen to twenty pounds per ton.

As the inhabitants of Barra seem to have less intercourse with the Mainland, or continent, as they term it, than either the inhabitants of the Orkney, Shetland, or the other Hebrides, so they are evidently less polished, and more shy and stupid.

Though the established clergyman in Barra has an easy life, having little to do, yet it is not the case with many of the clergymen in the Orkneys, Shetland, and the Western Islands. One parish has often several islands belonging to it, at which the

ministry must preach alternately; and, so boisterous are the ferries, and drunken the boatmen, that the clergyman is often not only drenched to the skin, but in danger of his life.

While here, I witnessed that abominably cruel method of fixing cattle and sheep to one another's tails, and swimming them across a ferry often more than a mile broad. To the disgrace of this part of the country, this method of conveying cattle, sheep, small horses, &c. is not quite abolished, though several of them are often drowned, and their tail pulled away by it, and the like. But notwithstanding the improvement in the Northern and Western Isles, many of the people are yet indolent; and, as there is less expense and trouble, though not so much humanity, in this method of conveying cattle from one island to another, or from the islands to the continent, yet it is, upon many occasions, still continued. Indeed, the boating, or putting on board cattle but half domesticated is sometimes a very troublesome business: and, when they grow restive, before the boat has reached the destined port, they are apt to upset her, and endanger the lives of all on board.

I was informed that whales are sometimes cast by storms into the bays and creeks in the Western Islands. Harpoons are kept in readiness, in some places, for such a chance; but, where they are not, the people assemble in crowds, men and women, old and young, and attack them as they flounder in the ebb of the tide, in shallow water and mud, with pitch forks, pick axes, clubs, and all manner of instruments, and so kill them. They know well

enough how to cut them up, and, by boiling, to extract the oil. Ships from all quarters are not unfrequently driven also into the bays and roads among the islands. From these, for a very little money, or in exchange for fish, potatoes, or fresh meat, the inhabitants get spirits, wine, and fruit, in great abundance; so that it is astonishing with what elegance and luxury the gentlemen of even very small fortunes live. The produce of the sea and of their own fields and mountains, with those foreign luxuries, furnish their tables nobly. In every house there is a piper or fiddler, or both. They pass the long winter nights in great mirth and glee. There are but few lairds on any of the islands, and on many, nay, I believe most of them, only one. In making visits among one another, therefore, the chief people have to perform voyages from one island to another, which doubles the enjoyment of the social converse and feast. From this habit of going by water from place to place, and often to a very considerable distance, they think less of a voyage to any part of the continent, or of the world, than we do. They are afloat, as it were, on this terraqueous globe; they are accordingly found in every country. So also, from similar causes, are the natives of the Orkneys.

It was formerly customary with the chief families in the Hebrides to send their sons for education, not to England, but France, of which there are some old people that speak at this day more familiarly than of England or Scotland. It has, for nearly the last half century, become the fashion to send their eldest sons for education to the Scotch universities, and to live for some time as

a kind of pupils, or apprentices, with the most renowned farmers in the south part of Scotland and the north of England. This is very judicious. As to their younger sons, they either go into business, or the navy and army. Though there be in general a wonderful attention paid to the education of daughters in Scotland in general, yet I did not find that there was very much pains taken, or expense incurred, on this head in the Hebrides. Sometimes the eldest daughters are sent for a year or two to Edinburgh; and these, when they return home, instruct their youngest sisters in the accomplishments and the arts which they themselves have learnt, such as music, drawing, and making up gowns and caps. This is very natural and wise economy.

As to the manner of living, I mean, the mode or means of subsisting among the lower class, that is, the bulk of the people, it is, if possible, still harder than that in Caithness. The Hebrideans, though they have more fish and flesh, have less oaten or any other meal; the want of which, even where there is flesh and fish in abundance, is felt, every one says who has experienced it, a grievous privation; and they say, that without something farinaceous, the quantity of flesh meat sufficient for the cravings of an ordinary stomach is enormous. This is too often proved in the Western Islands by experience.

The labouring people in the Hebrides, or the servants of farmers, are called SCALLAGS, a name of nearly the same import as PRÆDIAL SLAVE. And prædial slaves they most completely are, with this exception, that they cannot either be sold, or

transferred for hire from one master to another. The proprietor of the land lets it, in large portions, to tacksmen, tacksmen to tenants, tenants to subtenants; and the work to be done for both is performed by the SCALLAG, who has a small cottage or hut, or rather liberty to build one with turf and sticks for himself, and a bit of ground for raising kail, potatoes, and barley, for supporting himself and family all the year round. For the cultivation of this they are allowed one day in the week to themselves: the other five they must work for their master. These poor people are obliged to carry their instruments of husbandry or for cutting kelp on their backs, every Monday morning, over mountains, or to the rocky shores, often a space of six, seven, or eight miles, and back again to their huts on Friday evening. Their only food is water gruel, barley cakes, sometimes with kail, a species of greens, boiled in it, and potatoes; for the most part without, or only with a very inadequate portion of salt. They are forced to provide themselves with the implements they use in working. Neither are they allowed, bedding, clothes, or firing. For firing they must prepare, on their own day, Saturday, some peat moss. Clothes must be provided by the wife from bits of wool picked up in the hills, or obtained by begging from the wives of the tenants and tacksmen, and from spinning a little flax, raised, as well as barley and potatoes, on the scallag's little possession, or peculium. Some eggs and chickens too are sometimes raised and carried far by the poor women to market. It is quite common for the tenants and subtenants to kick and beat the scallags. The miserable condition of these unfortunate men is quite

hopeless: to seek relief from a change of masters is utterly impracticable. It is reckoned as unhandsome in any man to receive into his service the scallag of another, as it would be in a Jamaica planter to harbour another's runaway negro. The state of our negroes is paradise compared with that of the SCALLAG.

It has been remarked by our forefathers, that a gloomy morning often ushers in a beautiful day. This proverb was verified with regard to a young couple with whom I fell in, in this part of the country. Mr. T—y—r, though his father was poor, having had a tolerably good education, and been at the university of Aberdeen, got himself appointed schoolmaster of a large parish in this country. During the time he filled this office, he became acquainted with Mr. W—t and his family, which only consisted of himself, his wife, and daughter, with the servant, who lived in a neat snug house, in a beautifully romantic though sequestered place. Mr. T—y—r, being young and handsome, gained the daughter's affection; nay, so much, that they became too familiar.

It is thought little or no disgrace for a servant-maid, or one in a low station, to have a natural child; and some young men prefer these when about to marry, before others, as by this they know that they probably will have children. But for one who is in the character of a lady to have one, is, as they express it, an awful thing; and, in this respect, one false step for ever damns her fame. Mr. T. knew this; and, to remedy it, proposed, though he was afraid to marry her, as he had nothing to support her, and

her father being extravagant, though more than sixty years of age, as he could write well and knew business, had set out for Edinburgh in quest of employment, and to avoid his creditors. In the mean time, it having been blazed abroad, as is commonly done in the country in cases of this kind, that Mr. T. and Miss W. had fallen, as they term it, and as their crime was an offence against the *noli me tangere*, the virtue without which, and indeed very properly, no man can be either clergyman, schoolmaster, or elder in the church, M. T. though he had married her, found it necessary to give up his place, and retire to a village with his wife and his mother-in-law, and nothing to support them but twelve pounds a year remitted by the old man from Edinburgh. Mrs. T. was at length delivered of a son; and Mr. T. as he could not raise a school where he resided, was completely idle, being, as is too often the case with Scotchmen, ashamed to work. In this state he lived till he, his wife, his mother-in-law, and the child, were almost nothing but skin and bone, for want of food. Mrs. T. had learned mantua-making, but never having practised, and not being very dextrous at it, she found little employment. Mr. T. had a brother in the West Indies, to whom he often wrote his case. At length he received thirty pounds to fit himself out for the West Indies: but, when Mr. T. got the money, he could not help providing some necessaries for his family, and the money was soon gone; part of it having been employed, as they express it in Scotland, in driving the wolf from the door; in other words, in satisfying gaping creditors.

By the time another thirty pounds came, Mrs. T. was about again to be on the straw; and Mr. T. in order to pay his passage, was obliged to leave his wife without a shilling. For three years she heard nothing of him; and, her father dying, she supported herself, her mother, and her two infants, by going out to sew, at three-pence a-day with her victuals, the sum allowed here. Her clothes became tattered, her colour faded; and though young, with naturally handsome features, being much pitted with the small pox, she became uncommonly plain-looking. In this situation, her toes through her shoes, and her neckerchief having the marks of being often, yet not well, washed, while she and her mother, one cold evening, were sitting by a fire, not too good, peeling and eating potatoes for supper, with only a little cold water in a wooden cup before them, a genteel, handsome, well-dressed man, in deep mourning, came into the house; and, bowing, sat down without being desired, having politely asked how they did. None of them knew him. His voice, as well as his face, was altered by the hot climate. Having asked when Mrs. T. heard from her husband, she replied, with the tear in her eye, "I have not heard of him since he left this, and I am afraid never will."—"That is very strange," replied the gentleman, "for I am certain he is alive." Shaking her head, she said, "Had he been alive, I would have heard from him."—"You must not think so, I saw him in the West Indies, and well, only a few months ago." Laying down the potatoe she was eating, and giving a little of the water to her eldest son, a fine stout half-naked boy,

she said, "Ah, Sir! I am afraid there must be some mistake in the case. He certainly would have wrote me this," she said, while she wiped the tear from her cheek. Taking her by the hand, he said, "I assure you he is alive. He desired me to wait on you with his kind love."—"I am much obliged to you, Sir," wiping her tears again, she replied.—"But," said he, "do you not know me, my dear?" throwing his arms around her neck; "do you not know me?" Upon looking, for a moment, earnestly in his face, she fainted, and was unable to speak for some minutes. When she looked up a second time in his face, he said, "My dear, my brother having died, left me a handsome fortune, and I am come to see you, to part no more." It was about a year after this when I dined with them, and I found Mrs. T. not only elegantly dressed, but stout and jolly, though she had a third son at the breast.

But transitions from the extreme of happiness to the deepest distress also frequently occur. I am led to this reflection from what happened to me a few days after I had seen and heard Mr. T's story.

In traversing this part of the country, I went one day past a respectable looking house, when I was desired, by a man standing at the door with his hat off, to walk in, which I the rather did, as I wished to see the inside of it, and to have some whey to drink. Though all over the Highlands and islands they sometimes seem rather to rejoice at funerals than be sad, I found here a number of people sitting at the fire-side with the remains of a child in

A. Grant del.

Oban Bay in Argyleshire.

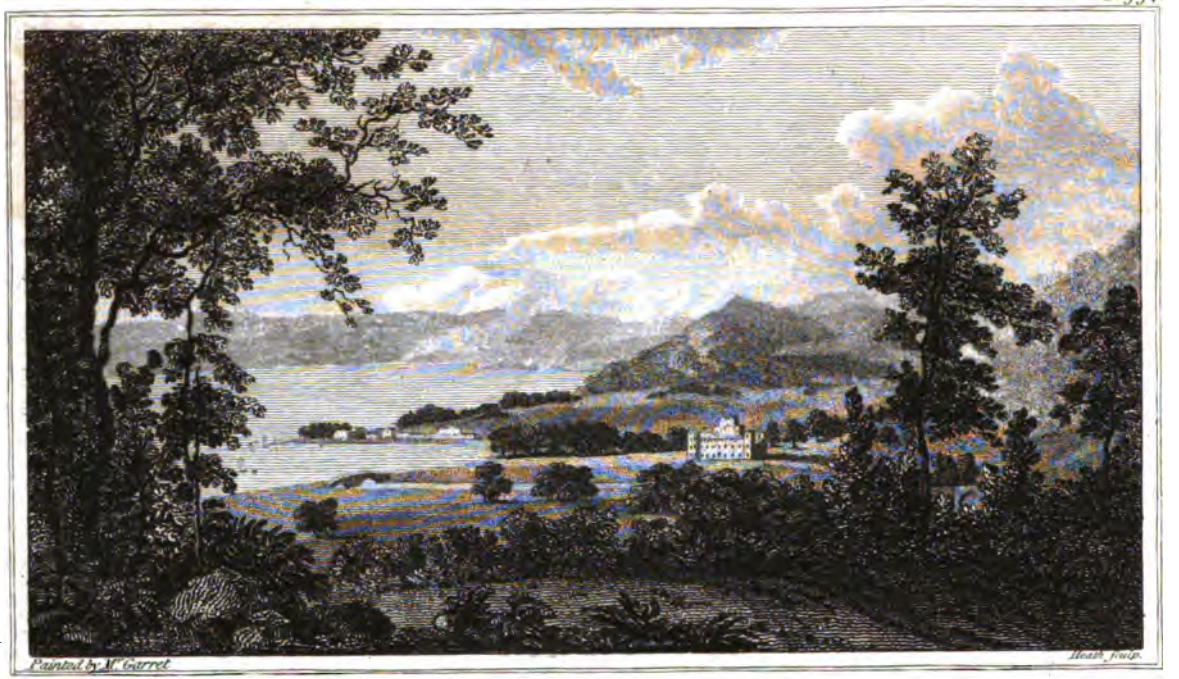
a coffin on a bye table. Mr. Green, the master of the house, being an extensive farmer, and in easy circumstances, had been many years married without any children. At length, when above forty years old, Mrs. Green brought forth a fine boy, which became the darling of the whole house. In the evenings, when the business of the day was over, the servants, sitting round the fire, generally strove who should have the child most frequently on their knee, to dandle, sing to it, and amuse it; and it no doubt afforded the parents much plasure to see their child thus beloved, and caressed, and so early in life both giving and receiving pleasure. Having amused themselves with the child in this manner, one of the servants was handing it, one evening, to another on the opposite side of the fire, who had asked him, and had reached out his arms to receive the child. While in this attitude they were tickling it about the neck, to make it laugh, the child being stout and lively, and about a year old, gave, when going from the one servant's arms to the other, a spring, and leaped into a cauldron full of wort that happened to be boiling on the fire.

Neither having leisure nor inclination to visit the other Western Islands, though some of them are well worth seeing, I took ship, and having the island of Tirie, Iona, or Icolmkill, and Mull, on the right, and Rum, with its lofty mountains, on the left, I sailed for Fort William, where, after a pleasant voyage, the continent, mountains, islands, &c. appearing in a variety of attitudes as the ship skimmed along, we arrived in safety.

Finding the fort here neither so regular, nor so

extensive, as Fort George, nor seemingly of any use, except as barracks for soldiers, I bent my course towards Inverary. After a tedious and wearisome journey of more than twenty miles, the greater part of which lay over two mountains, I reached, at length, exhausted and in a melancholy mood, the inn called the *King's House*, situated on the side of a rapid river, issuing out of the dreary and dreadful pass of Glencoe. Here provisions were as scarce and poor as at the general's hut on Lochness; with the important difference, that, if there was any cause of disgust, as there probably was, I fortunately did not perceive it. It is a miserable and dirty hut; though the landlord has this, with some pasture land, rent free, besides 10l. per annum from government. However, I slept soundly, and early in the morning, well refreshed, and in good spirits, proceeded through Glencoe, which is ten miles in length, and whose horrors have often been described, to a small but not uncomfortable inn at the ferry of Ballyhulish. Here, an isolated hill, beautifully rising in a conical form, and verdant to the top, with the waters of Loch Lynn, which on one side wash its base, form a pleasing contrast with the gloomy precipices of Glencoe, and the savage rudeness of the mountains with which it is environed.

By Appin, Aird, Ardnamurknage, Dunstaffnage, and Dunolly, gentlemen's seats distinguished; some of them by the rude magnificence and frowning defiance of former times; and others, by the elegance and convenience of modern improvement, I arrived at Oban. This flourishing village is situated on the bay of Oban in the sound of Mull, which bay is of a semicircular form, from twelve to fourteen fathoms



View of the Town & Castle of Inveraray, taken from the foot of the Hill call'd Dunacquaich.

deep, and large enough to contain above five hundred vessels. It has every where good anchorage, and is defended from the fury of the winds by the island of Mull and Kerrera. The village is rapidly extending itself round the edges of the bay. The houses and gardens, rising above one another on the acclivities that bound the bay, exhibit a picturesque and pleasing appearance. When the custom-house, in 1766, was transferred from Fort William to Oban, it consisted only of three or four houses or huts. At present, its population amounts to near seven hundred souls. It has several flourishing manufactures; twenty sloops employed in the fishing and coasting trade; and a ship of three hundred tons in the Baltic trade: such are the effects of natural advantages seized and improved by wise economy. An English traveller, equally patriotic and intelligent, and particularly conversant with naval affairs, the late Mr. T. Newte, of Tiverton, recommends Oban, I think, by considerations that could not but have weight if they were attended to, as one of the happiest situations in Great Britain for the erection of a royal dock yard and arsenal. Having staid all night at Oban, where I met with some very well informed people, I pursued my route to Bunawe, on the lake of that name, where the Furness company have a house and place for making charcoal; and in the neighbourhood of this place an iron work. Here I rested, and passed the night in a small inn, or alehouse, that formed a perfect contrast with the king's house; a blessing for which travellers are indebted no doubt to the Furness company. I went on from Bunawe to Dalmally, a large and straggling village, pleasantly situated on a large river, which descending from the

Black Mount, falls into Loch Awe. This lake is not only of large extent, but extremely beautiful and picturesque, being in some places interspersed with islands covered with verdure, or oak, hazel, and birch; or where rocky, with tall fir trees; in others, finely indented by promontories advancing and spreading into the lake a great way, and joined to the main land only by narrow isthmuses. At the north, on a tongue of land jutting into the loch, there is a large, old, and ruinous castle, belonging to the earl of Braid-Albin. This was the antient den or strong hold of the family, from which, at the head of their vassals and tenants, they issued forth to commit occasional depredations on their neighbours. The truth is, that, in the times to which I refer, this practice, as I have hinted above, was very far from being singular. The family of Braid-Albin, in the vicinity of Loch Awe, their most antient patrimony, possess a country thirty miles in extent.

Bidding adieu to Loch Awe, at Cladich, I made the best of my way, through a bleak and dreary region, to Inverary.

From the inn at Inverary, which is more splendid and extensive than one would expect in the midst of lakes and mountains, I went to see the seat of the duke of Argyle, which is a square building of blueish granite, having a round tower at each corner, and a square one in the centre. It is situate on a gentle eminence, in the midst of an extensive plain, bounded behind and on each side by lofty mountains, and having Loch Fyne in front, opening into a wide bay into the sea. The inside of this princely mansion is adorned with every splendid decoration of the useful and elegant arts; and

Callender pinxt. T. Phillips sculpt.

The Antient Seat of the Earls of Bredalbane at Loch Awe.

View at the Ferry of Ballyhulish.

the improvements in and about the house have cost, I understand, above two hundred thousand pounds sterling.

At the inn here, I observed two men in close conversation in the room near me, who seemed interrupted by me. I therefore drew towards the corner, and pretended to sleep. The one who was the chief speaker, was, it seems, a London bookseller of the name of Macallister, alias Macdonald, come to the country to see his friends; and the substance of his story was this. Some years ago, Mr. Macdonald had failed, and been put in prison; and that, as he said, chiefly owing to a licentious book having been proved to be sold by one of his shopmen; but he got out, and began trade again on a small scale. His friends, sorry for him, as he was young and healthy, advised him to marry some old maid or widow worth money, to set him fairly afloat again, and recommended much Miss T—l, the daughter of an old Scotch physician, who, though not handsome, was deserving, and would have something. Mr. M. wished much to see the lady, but could not get himself introduced to her. He therefore wrote to her himself, giving his address, and informing her, that, from what he had heard of her person and accomplishments, he begged to know if she would see him. He soon received a note, saying, that her father had no objections to his breakfasting there next morning. Mr. M. attended, and was pleased with every thing except the lady's person. In a week or two he gave up the pursuit, though she told him she had no objections to marry him. When her father died, which

was not many months after; though she called at his house and mentioned the matter, Mr. M. still declined the match, and he heard no more of her. About three years after this, however, Mr. M, being in very easy circumstances, ran into a small inn, in the city, to avoid a heavy fall of rain. While he was standing at the fire, he recognized his old friend Miss T—l warming, in an old tin pot, a penny farthings worth of porter. Soon after her father's death, who was a good worthy man, a dashing, good-looking young Irishman, learning what she was, got introduced to her; and pretending to admire her person, in a week or two gained her affections and married her. Having got the three or four thousand pounds into his hands, he in a very short time spent it; and, during that time, infected her with a loathsome disease. In this forlorn state he left her, without bidding her adieu. Her rent being unpaid, her clothes went to the pawnbrokers; and she now lives, it seems, by singing ballads on the streets.

The whole country on this side of Scotland is various, abrupt, and sublime. It is every where deeply indented with lakes on the one hand, and on the other, studded, though at unequal distances, with islands. And from the lakes, or sea shores, hills and mountains rise, not by long slopes, but in a sudden, bold, and almost perpendicular manner, to a great elevation. The whole of the coast, as well as the islands, is subject to almost continual rain; which, of course, is more favourable to pasturage than the culture of grain. There seldom passes a day, in which there is not some rain, more or less,

Calender pinxt. T. Phillips sculpt.

Ben Lomond

One of those travelling collectors, called ENGLISH RIDERS, came in his route, among other places, to Inverary. He staid day after day, delaying his departure, until there should be some appearance of fair weather. At last, his patience being exhausted, he swore hastily to the landlord, that he believed it rained every day in the year at Inverary. "Hoot, nae," replied the landlord, "it snaws sometimes." The rider immediately called for his bill, discharged it, and, without saying a word, went and took his horse, and set off: like Sancho Pancha embracing his ass, and in profound silence quitting all the cares and fears, with the pomp and parade of his government of Barataria.

There was a great deal of volunteering among the Highlanders some years ago. Sometimes it was encouraged, sometimes not: at last it was given up. Every man was allowed a shilling a day when under arms for training, which was two shillings per week. It may be mentioned as strongly characteristic of the invincible laziness of the Highlanders, that many of them made a shift to live on this pittance, with the conquests of their gun among the hills. They were plentifully supplied with powder, and their shooting was connived at. They regretted it much when there was no more encouragement for volunteering.

Having viewed Inverary, and the beautifully-variegated prospects around, Ben Lomond raising his lofty summit, like the father of the mountains around him, next drew my attention. I therefore directed my journey thither.

Loch Lomond, at the foot of this stupendous

mountain, which contains a number of beautiful small islands, presents a delightful prospect. In short, though cockney tours are now what booksellers call a bore, and journies thither by those that have neither intelligence nor taste to perceive what is most worthy of notice, nor talents for describing it; yet it is not surprizing that so many make the attempt, since so many beautiful and stupendous objects conspire to draw attention. If the lakes of Cumberland, the spars of Derbyshire, the manufactories at Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, &c. draw numbers to those places, it is not surprizing that Ben Lomond, and the lake of that name, attract multitudes, and set them a writing about them as well as they can, by their truly sublime and stupendous beauties.

I had often heard of Dumbarton, but had never seen it; therefore, perceiving the force of the saying, that the eye is never satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing, I left the enchanting scenes presented by the indescribable beauties of Loch Lomond, and proceeded for Dumbarton, though convinced that nothing there could afford any high gratification after my eyes and other senses had been feasted so sumptuously. However, I was agreeably disappointed, and when I arrived at

DUMBARTON,

The idea of its antiquity and former utility, as well as of that civilization and refinement of manners, which render such petty forts as this, though once

Dumbarton Castle with the Country around

of high importance, now of no use, made such an impression on my mind, as made me entirely forget Ben Lomond and all his attendant beauties.

This antient fort, once thought impregnable, by being erected on a high rock in the midst of a large plain, and situate near the mouth of the Clyde, not far from Greenock and Port Glasgow, ont he opposite side, has stood many sieges, which are well known to those who are acquainted with the history of Scotland. Some time before I approached it, I crossed the river Leven, which runs out of Loch Lomond into the Clyde, near which there is a beautiful marble monument, erected to the memory of Dr. Smollet; and where, as he was born on its banks, I could not help calling to mind those lines of his:

> Pure stream, in whose transparent wave
> My youthful limbs I often wont to lave, &c.

From Dumbarton, through a variety of beautifully thriving villages, I made the best of my way to Glasgow. But, tired as I was; and, notwithstanding it was about sun-set, I could not help, before I retired to rest, going to pay a tribute of tears, which I did copiously, over my brother John's grave; who, dying at the age of twenty-one, was buried not far from the high church. He had walked from Glasgow, and when very much heated by the walk, sat down on the banks of the Clyde, to hear a tent preacher, on a sacrament Sunday. He there caught cold, which was followed by a fever, and this by death.

There is something in human nature, which, at certain moments, attaches us to our friends and relations, in a forcible and irresistible manner. It is this principle which induces men, who have made fortunes, and are about to leave the world, to think of their relations, even though they have never seen them, and to think of the place of their nativity, and the scenes of their early years, though they have not seen them for a long time. Something of this principle I found had fast hold of my mind; and, notwithstanding the vast variety of variegated, sublime, and beautiful objects I had seen, in the course of my excursions, still the idea of my deceased brother, whose grave I had seen, and whose head I had laid in it, was uppermost in my mind, till this idea was conquered, or rather superseded, by the thoughts of my dear parents, whose piety and devotion I shall never forget, and whose prayers for my spiritual as well as temporal interest, though they then made no impression on me, I then recollected, and shall never forget. These, with a variety of other ideas connected with them, were uppermost in my mind; and it was not, till after several waking hours a bed, and fervent prayers to the father of the universe, that the prayers of my parents for my spiritual welfare should be heard, that I went to sleep.

GLASGOW.

I had seen this city several times, but it still struck me greatly, even without the circumstance of novelty. After considering the regularity of the streets, and elegance of the buildings, the first thing that at-

tracted my attention, was the heterogeneous mass of people assembled here, of such different characters, and living among one another. I am led to this observation, as, it being Sunday when I landed, on returning to my quarters, from paying a tribute of tears to my brother's ashes, on one side of the street, almost in every house, I heard psalms singing and fervent prayers ascending to the father of the universe, while, on the other, there was nothing to be heard but swearing, blaspheming, and the most obscene and abusive language. In short, the one side of the street, if appearances were not false, might be called the temples of the Holy Ghost; the other, in the language of Rowland Hill, the hot-beds of the devil. And it was astonishing to see in some places a set of drunkards and debauchees reeling from the bagnios, and, at others, numbers going leisurely home with their Bibles under their arm, from places of worship, to their peaceful habitations.

Upon going out one forenoon I met about five hundred men, all in a mourning habit, and having more than an ordinarily composed carriage, and serious appearance, attending a funeral. When I had passed them, I turned and followed the procession, in order, if possible, to learn how so many well dressed men came to be collected, not one of them wearing any thing but mourning.

There are, it seems, notwithstanding the profligacy of many in this city, near a hundred praying societies, each of them consisting of about thirty members, who meet weekly; and, once a month, there is one elected from each of these societies to attend another society or prayer meeting, composed of

a member from each of the rest. And, as at each of the particular societies they not only read, pray, and sing psalms, but also converse over religious matters, keeping regular minutes of what is done; so, at each general meeting, they pray, read, and sing psalms, and not only converse on religious subjects in general, but consider of appeals, cases of conscience, and other religious matters laid before them from the societies in the city and environs, of which this is composed. A clergyman, it seems, is always in the chair, at the society composed of delegates from the others. There are certain funds belonging to these societies, appropriated for purchasing religious books, hiring rooms, providing for sick and poor members, paying physicians and apothecaries to attend any of the members when taken ill; and defraying the funeral expense of any deceased member when necessary. When any dies, being a member of the head prayer meeting, the meetings, it seems, in general all attend the funeral, and the person whose body was about to be interred, and whose funeral procession I followed, was of this description.

If any members are sick, there are certain others, who, by routine, visit them, pray with them, inquire, so far as is prudent, both into their temporal and spiritual concerns, call in the physicians, &c. who are paid by the societies; and, if such member die, they give orders respecting the funeral, &c. so that, it sometimes happens, the relations of the deceased have no business with the funeral more than others, nor, unless they choose, are put to any expense at it.

As the different corps of volunteers, the officers in the army, navy, &c. &c. have uniforms, so some

teachers of religion here think that, like those that went to the crusades, the different sects of christians should be distinguished in the same manner. This idea has been in part adopted in Glasgow; and some of the various denominations of christians are about to be clothed in uniform. One sect of christians have chosen a green short coat for the men, with green buttons. Though a certain uniform is pointed out to the ladies in it, which is a green skirt and jacket, yet, as they are making some remonstrances, that not being the fashionable colour at present, I understand they are partly to be allowed to dress as they please; provided their bosom and neck are properly covered. So that it is probable, as the Quaker is known by his broad brimmed hat, and his lady by her plain grey bonnet, the Davidalites, the Unitarians, the Anti-trinitarians, the Haldanites, the Universal Redemptionists, &c. &c. will all be known, on Sunday, and perhaps on other days, by the uniform and badges of their peculiar sect.

As I always, if in health, go somewhere to church on Sunday; and, if they are *praying christians*, have no objections to hear them; while here I went one Sunday to church, whither I saw great crouds going, and found it to be what are called Universal Redemptionists. Their preacher argued their cause with considerable eloquence, and endeavoured to shew, that as God made man, and is able, so now that his justice is satisfied, he will make him happy. This sect is, it seems, gaining ground fast here; and I am sorry for it, as such doctrines are not only soothing and pleasant to flesh and blood, but apt to induce the young, the giddy, and the thoughtless, to

think that it is unnecessary for them to lay any restraint on their unruly appetites and passions.

The prosperity of Glasgow is truly astonishing, and shews what industry can do. It was thought that Edinburgh would be ruined, when the parliament of Scotland was transferred to London; but time has shewn that opinion to be false. It was thought that Glasgow would decline when we lost America, but time has discovered the mistake. Before the late American war, the merchants and manufacturers in Glasgow had seen the advantages of commerce; when, therefore, they found themselves shut out of the American market, they studiously looked out for another. When prevented from importing tobacco, to gratify the propensities of the gentlemen, they imported cottons, &c. from the West Indies; and, working these up into elegant fabrics, thereby had it in their power to gratify the taste of the ladies. Thus they did good to their country, and put the money into the Scotch, that used to go into the Gentoo weavers pockets.

But commerce and manufactures have their inconveniencies, and there is too good reason to conclude, that though the external circumstances of the common people are considerably bettered by them, yet their morals are not. The manners of the common people here were certainly never so profligate; and their high wages but serve to furnish too many of them with the means of becoming more wicked; and, owing to the mixture of the sexes at the manufactories, infant prostitution is, it seems, not uncommon; and so audacious have some of the little wretches of both sexes become, that if a girl is so-

licited to go to a manufactory, she will ask if any boys are to work along with her; and a boy, if girls; making these conditions of their engagement. For there are some manufacturers, it seems, who keep their boys and girls separate.

Certain it is, that a high preference is given to servants, labourers, clerks, &c. from the country; as too many of those brought up in the city and its environs, as is too often the case about all great cities, are debauched, and not to be trusted. Nay, so abandoned are some of the lower orders about Glasgow, that, on a Sunday afternoon, in the green, which is a large meadow, with public walks, belonging to the citizens at large, and where hundreds were assembled, (after having, for the special purpose, formed a ring, only a few yards diameter) one of the inhabitants, with an abandoned woman, that had agreed to it, while his companions, and those forming the ring, continued to shout and applaud him, did what, even cats, elephants, and many other of the inferior animals avoid in public, for a Scotch pint of gin.

There are virtuous as well as vicious characters every where; and, though the one is not always rewarded, nor the other punished, yet this, in the course of providence, is generally the case. A poor girl, having been bred at one of the manufactories, and seen the vicious conduct of some of the young people, left them, to try to gain her bread in some other way. Having studied the mantua-making and millinery business, and taken a room to do business for herself, she bought a ticket, and went to a ball in the city, that she might see the fashions, and

be the better qualified to please the few customers she had, by her modesty, prudent behaviour, and unremitting attention to business obtained. Having sat a considerable time in the ball room, without being noticed by any one, she dropped a curtsy to some ladies she had before seen, who passed her; but being, like too many of the Scotch, filled with pride, did not deign to take the least notice of her. But providence generally rewards the virtuous. While she was sitting, escorted by none, and, because she was poor, despised by those that knew her, a young gentleman, with a livery servant, who came to the city that evening, and inquiring if there were any amusements in town, heard of the ball; and, through the influence of his pocket, got admission to it. Looking round him, and seeing every body some way or other engaged, except the young girl, he went to her and sat down beside her. Finding her handsome, and plainly, though neatly dressed, as also extremely modest, while many of the other ladies seemed forward, he asked her to dance. If he was pleased with her before, he was more so now; and redoubled his attention. She, however, soon retired, which he thought was only for a few minutes; but, as she did not return, the gentleman found himself extremely uneasy. He inquired of every body, but none present could tell him either her name, or where she resided. One or two of the squires daughters, who looked down on her with a species of contempt, were nettled that a young man, so good looking, and so accomplished, should make such a fuss about a plain dressed, poor girl, said, they knew nothing of her. Vexed that he had not so-

licited more earnestly her address, which she had twice refused, he returned to his quarters, almost distracted. After hunting about for some time, he found her out, and alone, in a clean neat garret, busy at her needle. Without telling her his anxiety, he had some conversation with her, and found her not only of the strictest virtue, but that she had purposely avoided giving him her address, and informing him she was leaving the ball-room; as, if he had retired with her, some in the ball-room might have thought it, as she herself did, improper: and, as she wished to live virtuously, she also, at the same time, wished and was determined to avoid, as far as she could, even the appearances of evil. After repeated trials to shake the pillars of this amiable young woman's virtue, in the course of several visits, without effect, he asked her in marriage; and she, who once lived in a garret, now rolls in her carriage, has a train of servants at her command, and is beloved and esteemed by all that know her.

The half of the people of Glasgow, at least of the lower classes, appear to be Highlanders. This is quite apparent from their very visages. The physiognomies of people are formed, in the course of ages, by causes physical, and causes moral. The physiognomies of the Highlanders, being constantly in the open air, exposed to the accumulated heats of a sun, in the summer months, long above the horizon, and to the autumnal, winter, and vernal blasts, have acquired a kind of grin; while, from an apprehension of danger, and a resolution to defend themselves, they have contracted, at the same time, an air of vigilance and suspicion,

mingled with an expression of ferocity and defiance. The present race of Highlanders are not very apprehensive of danger, and are not, of course, reduced to the necessity of putting on an air of defiance. But their fathers and grandfathers were. And they have not yet opened their minds and countenances to the safety, confidence, good humour, and expansion of the English and Lowland Scots. The visages on the eastern coasts of the north of Scotland, as already observed, have the high cheek bones, and also the red hair and complexions of the Scandinavians. The western Highlanders are chubby, bluff, or fleshy, in their countenances, and have black hair; not unfrequently curling. All this is quite consonant with the observation of Tacitus.*

A few years ago, the magistrates were obliged to cut down the rows of beeches, hedges, shrubbery, &c. that surrounded the green, and to remove the seats, placed here and there under the trees, for the accommodation of invalids and others; as, generally after it grew dark, and during the whole night, the worthless part of the inhabitants practised there every species of impurity and lewdness. Petitions from the inhabitants, that lived near the green, representing the shameful practices carried on under the trees and hedges, induced the magistrates to cut them down; and it is to be lamented, that, even yet, at all hours of the night, scenes of lewdness are so often to be seen. St. James's and Hyde Park, at London have not more need to be purified from

* In vita Agricol. cap. xi.

wickedness than the green of Glasgow. Money, there, as about London, Edinburgh, and other places, too often, it seems, stops the mouths of the watchmen. I do not pretend to develope the cause; but certainly there seems to be an extraordinary degree of shameless lewdness among the lower classes in Glasgow. The very lowest class, as porters, labourers, watchmen, &c. are, for the most part, either Highlanders, or the descendants of Highlanders. In this class, too, are not a few Irish. But, to balance this last circumstance, a great number of Irish young gentlemen resort to the university. Ireland has the honour of having given a very celebrated professor to this university, and a still more celebrated genius, for a rector. I need not say that I allude to professor Hutchinson and Mr. Edmund Burke.

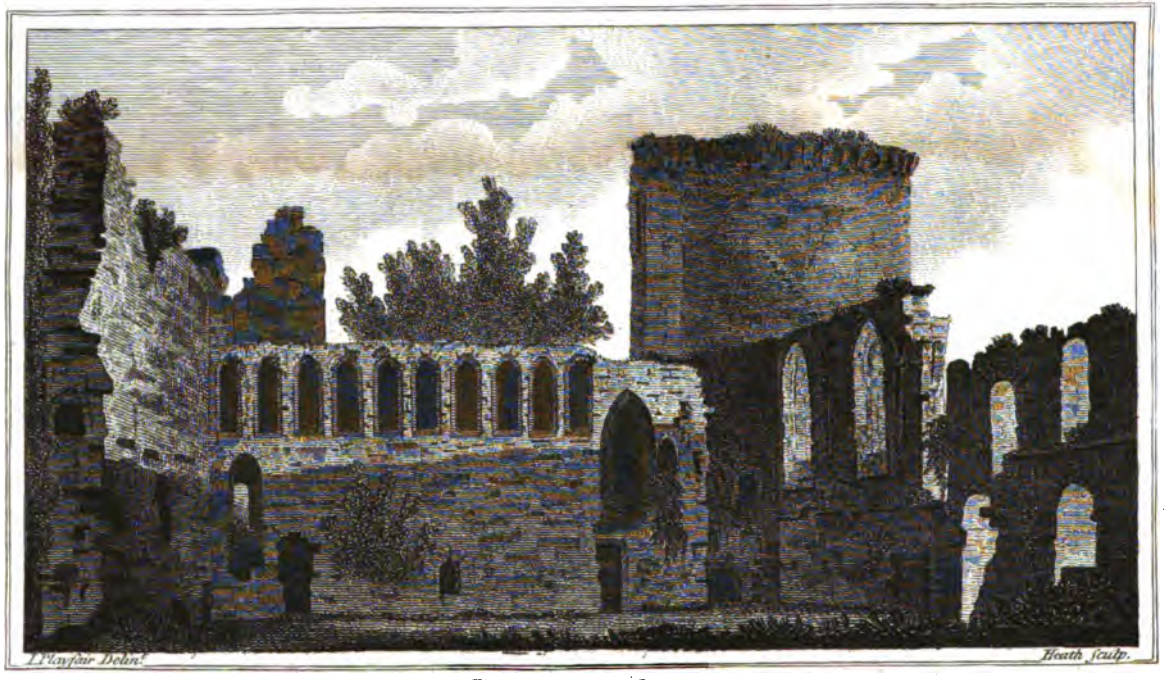
BANKS OF THE CLYDE.

I had now staid long enough at Glasgow to view the college, the glass-works, the iron-works, and other manufactories, and to become acquainted with the strange medley of society here: but, being unwilling to leave the western side of Scotland, without taking a view of Bothwell Castle, the palace of Hamilton, and the falls of the Clyde, I mounted my horse, and, at day-break on a morning in October, when the weather in Scotland is commonly fine, and the atmosphere clear, set out on the road to Hamilton, a distance from Glasgow of ten or twelve miles. The land on either side of the Clyde is beautifully dotted with gentlemen's seats, with surrounding or adjoining plantations, and in the

highest state of cultivation. For the greater part of the way, the river is beautifully fringed with wood.

About six or seven miles from Glasgow is Bothwell-Bridge, where a battle was fought in 1651, between the Scotch covenanters and the loyalists. The military movements of the contending parties were imitated with wonderful exactness by the school-boys in many parts of Scotland; and still I believe the game, or play of Bothwell-Bridge, is a favourite diversion with the school-boys on the Clyde, the Forth, and the Erne.

About two miles from Bothwell-Bridge, is Bothwell Castle, an antient seat of the Douglasses. This was a massy and really stupendous structure. The walls, a great part of which are still standing, were sixty feet high, and eighteen thick. In one part, this enormous mass, crushing its foundations, though of rock, fell, walls and rock together, into the Clyde. The breach in the foundation was repaired, and the wall rebuilt. The castle formed a quadrangle, with a round turret at each corner, three of which are still entire: but all the internal part has been demolished, or fallen into ruin. In the centre stood the citadel and place of arms, which is yet entire. The windows of the castle looking all of them into the square, or area, were placed very high; the bottoms of them being at least fifteen feet from the ground: a precaution, no doubt, against arrows, or other missile weapons. This also accounts for the elevated position, as well as the narrowness of the windows, in all antient edifices: such as churches, and public buildings of all kinds. It became the fashion even in private houses. Nor is it till lately that this fashion has been exchanged



Bothwell Castle.

for windows reaching from nearly the floor to the cieling, of any modern apartment.

On the opposite side of the Clyde appear the ruins of the beautiful castle of Blantyre, belonging to the barons or lords of Blantyre. Between this monastery and Bothwell Castle there was a subterraneous communication, by means of an excavation below the bed of the Clyde; so that the Douglasses might have taken refuge in that sanctuary, if they should have been forced to abandon their fortress. This communication, it is said, was kept open even after the monastery was secularized: and there are not a few stories told, whether true or false, of meetings in this subterrraneous passage, between lovers, at a time when feuds and animosities subsisted between their parents.

Having breakfasted and refreshed my horse at Bothwell Bridge, I rode on to Hamilton, a very neat town. It is a burgh of barony, containing about four thousand inhabitants. At the end of the town stands Hamilton Palace, in the same manner as the fine house or palace of Dalkeith, belonging to the duke of Buccleugh, near Edinburgh, stands at the end of the town of Dalkeith, also a burgh of barony. We frequently find burghs of barony contiguous to the seats of lords. Hamilton Palace is a large pile of building, with two deep wings, built at right angles to the centre. It is chiefly renowned for a spacious gallery, furnished with admirable paintings. There is here an excellent garden, well stocked and dressed, of not less than seven acres, with a good hot-house and green-house.

In the midst of lofty, large, and venerable oaks, on a rock hanging over the Clyde, are seen the ruins

of the old castle of the Hamiltons; of which, little remains are standing, except the gateway. Here also, in the park, are seen some cattle, whose breed is traced to the indigenous, or original, and wild cattle of the country, to which they are supposed to bear a near resemblance. There is certainly somewhat uncommon in their appearance; they are not, however, wild, but seemingly as tame as other cattle. They have short legs, long bodies, and more than ordinary curling hair.

On a rising ground, in front of Hamilton House, stands a fanciful building, in the style of a gothic castle, where there are two or three good rooms, commanding a delightful prospect. The rest of the building is occupied by servants, or allotted to other purposes. This edifice is called, from the duke of Hamilton's French title, CHATELHERAULT.

At the inn, at Hamilton, which is excellent, I passed the night, and early next morning proceeded to Lanark, a royal burgh, capital of the county, and containing, I believe, from two to three thousand inhabitants. It seems to be a poor place, if one may judge from the general appearance of both the houses and inhabitants. Nevertheless, it is charmingly situated on the brow of a hill, above the Clyde, which, for miles both above and below, is skirted for the most part with fine natural woods. It put me in mind of Crieff, and the wooded valley of the Erne, between that town and the Loch. I speak only of the situation: for Crieff seems to be a pretty busy and thriving place.

I had not stopped longer at Lanark than just to see my companion properly taken care of, when I proceeded to see what indeed had alone brought

Nasmyth pinxt. R. Cary sculp.

Corra Linn.

me to Lanark; the fall of the Clyde at the Corra Linn, or Pool. I did not think that any thing of the kind in Scotland could make a more forcible impression on my senses and imagination than the falls of Foyers and the Devon; but the Corra Linn astonished me still more, and made a deeper and more awful impression. It is not without reason that the falls of the Clyde are accounted the grandest and most picturesque scene of the kind in Britain.

About three miles above Lanark, the Clyde, the greatest river in Scotland next to the Tay, and nearly as large as the Thames at Wallingford, tumbles, in one cataract, from rock to rock, for about the space of a mile. At Stone-Byers, it makes one entire shoot over the rock, and falls between sixty and seventy feet. At the Corra-Linn, where it falls a hundred feet, it does not, like that at Stone-Byers, rush over the rock in one uniform sheet, but at three different places, bounds a little, as if with renovated vigour and impatient of delay, in its precipitate and furious course.

I am really at a loss how to describe the effect produced by those tremendous cascades. After seeing the smoke ascending for more than a mile as I advanced, I first heard, and then saw the Clyde roaring and raging, as if provoked at resistance. The question started in my mind: "Is Nature, then, so bustling and noisy in her operations? so tumultuous, rapid, and impetuous?" I had, in common, I suppose, with others, conceived of nature as something, though ever busy, yet still, quiescent, and imperceptible in its operations. I now

almost started to see her in so unexpected a form. To the eye of Reason her never-ceasing hand is seen in the vicissitudes of seasons and the growth of plants, as well as in roaring cascades, the billows of the ocean, or thunder and earthquakes. But it is not so with the imagination.

Where the water begins to fall down the horrid chasm, at the Corra Linn, on a projecting rock there stands an old castle, which, in the earlier part of the last century, was inhabited. It was certainly one of the most romantic and awful situations in which ever mansion stood. When the river is swoln with rain or dissolving snow, it shakes in such a manner as to spill water in a glass. On the edge of this stupendous fall is a mill, formed partly by scooping the rock, the outer wheel of which seems ready to be dashed in pieces even by the skirts of its foam.

On a high rocky bank, overlooking the Linn, there is a summer-house, which was built in 1703 by Sir James Carmichael, of Bonniton. From the uppermost room of this *maison de plaisance* there is a prospect of the fall, very curious as well as otherwise striking. Immediately on entering, as you throw your eyes towards a mirror placed on the side opposite to the fall, you see the whole of the mighty cataract, pouring, as it were, on your head. There is not any point of view from which the Corra Linn is not seen with astonishment, and a mixture of awe and horror. The roaring and raging of the water as it falls, its hollow murmurs in the chasm below, the screaming of wild fowl, and wood-clad rocks, form altogether a scene grand and wildly pleasing.

Stone Byers Lynn on the Clyde.

The walk between the fall of the Corra Linn and that of Stone Byers is in the highest degree romantic. The rocks on each side of the river, all along covered with wood, are a hundred feet above the bed of the river. The fall of Stone Byers, though not so great as that of the Corra Linn in point of height, is three times as wide. Its mass is more diversified; its various forms exhibit a greater appearance of both quantity and disorder. The cascade of Corra Linn ravishes and overpowers your senses. It is not long before you look about towards new objects. That at Stone Byers, though somewhat less commanding, and, as it were, insolent in its rage, has, in some respects, more grandeur, and certainly you contemplate it for a longer time without fatigue.

It now drew towards the end of October, when I was under an engagement to meet a young gentleman from the south, settle him in proper quarters, and introduce him into the university of Edinburgh. To this city I hastened to return; but understanding that the direct road from Lanark, which in many places was not good, and led through a bleak, barren, and uninteresting country, at least to a strange, I returned to my steps pretty late in the evening, and for half the way under the light of the moon to Hamilton, where I staid all night, and next morning set out for Edinburgh, by

THE KIRK OF SHOTS.

While I rested and refreshed myself and my fellow-traveller at this place, I learnt the following anecdote:

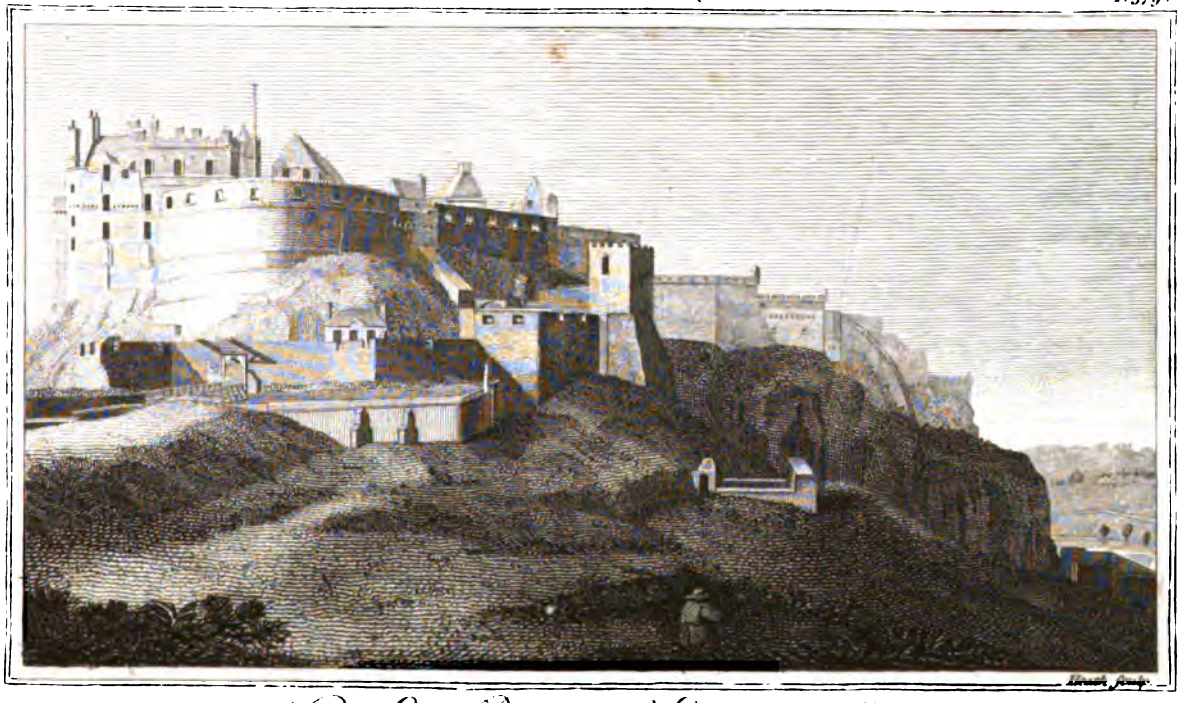
Some time ago, a gentleman on horseback, with a livery servant, happening to be overtaken by an unexpectedly heavy shower near this place, made all the haste he could to a farm-house on the road side, where the fowls, children, servants, &c. were all running towards the house. The gentleman, having been obliged to stay an hour or two, on account of the rain, amused himself with observing the good woman and the children, &c. all standing round the fire drying their clothes. Among the rest, he observed a beautiful little girl, completely wet. Having taken hold of the girl's hand, and asked if she would go with him, with a finely modest, innocent look and tone of voice, she said she would. He then asked her parents if they would give her to him; to which, thinking it only words of course, they made no reply, but that she was too young. He then, being much pleased with her sensibility, proposed to them to send her to a boarding school, either at Glasgow or Edinburgh, as to them should seem proper; for which he said he would willingly pay: and, to convince them that he was serious, and meant nothing improper, he desired them to fix on a magistrate and minister in either of these places, under whose care she might be placed, and only to tell him their names; while the girl, listening,

and now and then took a fine, innocent, and, as it were, stolen view of him, her little bosom glowing with gratitude, the parents replied, "We know nobody either in Glasgow or Edinburgh, much less a magistrate or a minister." He then took out an Edinburgh almanack, and desired them, from the names of the magistrates and ministers they would find in it, to fix on one of each, under whose care they should wish their daughter to be; which they at length did; and, having taken the name of the magistrate and minister in Edinburgh they had fixed on, he wrote to them, begging them to be careful of the girl; to send her to a respectable boarding-school, and to draw on him, at the Bank, for the sum, whatever it might be.

Then, taking an affectionate farewell of the girl, and putting money into her parent's hands, to equip and send her to Edinburgh, he proceeded on his way through Glasgow to the west of England, where he had a handsome estate. The parents sent the girl as desired; and the gentleman, having been twice at Edinburgh, and been much pleased both with her person and growing accomplishments, as well as her amiable temper and deportment, married her when she was little more than fifteen years of age. And, it is a noted fact, that when a certain great personage was born, and the finest women in England were inquired after to be nurse, this little girl, born in a thatched house, and who for several years looked after her father's sheep, even after she had borne two or three children, was reckoned one of the handsomest and best made women in England; and being reckoned among the fittest persons in England

for suckling the heir to the crown, an offer of this honourable office was made to her: but, at the desire of her husband, who was in affluent circumstances, she declined to accept it.

Being safely arrived in Edinburgh, I sold my horse, to which, I confess, I had become much attached, and of whose health and welfare I have since had satisfactory accounts. I sold him cheap to a person whose assurances I could rely that he should be well treated.



North-East Prospect of Edinburgh Castle.

EDINBURGH,

THE capital of Scotland, stands on three hills, and the ridges of the middle one are covered with lofty stone buildings, some of which are fourteen stories high. From the castle, which is situated on a lofty rock at the upper end of the High Street, there is an extensive noble prospect; and at the other end, about a mile distant, is Holyrood House, the palace of the Scottish kings. I went to view the New Town, which contains some of the most beautiful specimens of architecture in Britain, perhaps in Europe. Heriot's and Watson's hospitals, for the education and support of the sons of citizens, are, though the plan of each is different, noble buildings, and amply endowed. The Parliament Close, where the courts of law meet, is not only extensive, but contains some of the richest shops in Edinburgh. There are excellent views from Arthur's Seat, and the Calton Hill. I was much pleased with the elegant simplicity of Hume's monument, and the capaciousness of the High Church, where the general assembly of the church of Scotland meets annually. I was sorry to find the buildings of the New College not nearly complete. However, from the specimens of the rooms that are already finished, and which are uncommonly spacious, elegant, and convenient, Edinburgh College, as it is already the first medical, bids fair for being, with regard to its external appearance, the most shewy

seminary of learning in Europe. Through means of a little money, I got admission to the class room, where they were dissecting a man that had been kept in spirits for some months, having been hanged for murdering his wife. The body had but little smell. When we entered, it was lying on a table in the middle of the room, covered with a clean linen cloth, and seemed hard and shrivelled, from having been so long among spirits.

The botanical garden here seems to excel that at Oxford in size and elegance, as well as in variety of useful and beautiful exotics; but why is the cotton plant neither here nor at Oxford? I expected to find Indian corn, sugar cane, coffee, indigo, rice, tea, &c. &c. growing here under frames, but found none of them. Nor had they any of the bread-fruit tree, though I cared the less, as I had seen it before and since in the pleasure garden of Mr. Fraser, the director of the water-works at Wapping, to whom I had been introduced by my worthy friend the Rev. Dr. William Hall.

In the King's Bench, Fleet, and other prisons in England, prisoners often live luxuriously, and keep their mistress; some of them spending not less than a thousand pounds sterling a year. The same thing, it seems, is not unfrequent in Edinburgh. Even yet there is some defect in our bankrupt laws.

Female societies are now becoming common. There is a famous one in the town of Litchfield, where they choose a president and clerk, make laws, raise money, inquire into cases of distress, pay fines, and order sums to be paid from the fund for charitable purposes, without suffering any man to be

amongst them. They have begun, I find, a society of this kind in Edinburgh.

Formerly the magistrates paid eighty pounds sterling a year for carrying the filth from the streets of the city; but, so much are matters altered, that they now receive several hundreds annually for liberty to take it away. Nay, so well was agriculture understood, even before Dr. Coventry was appointed professor of it here, that the manure of the streets was shipped and carried many miles by sea, after having been bought at Edinburgh at a high price.

There are whimsical people every where. A gentleman near Hyde Park Corner, London, having his first wife in a coffin, lying under his bed, and a window in the lid of it over her face, looks through this every night when he goes to bed, notwithstanding what his present wife says to prevent him. A gentleman at Edinburgh, of rather a whimsical turn, some time ago used to curl and powder his horses tails and their manes after they had been well frizzed and pomatumed; and, having built a house, had almost the one end of it, from the foundation to the top, of glass, thinking this by far the best way to light a house, and save the window tax. However, this house did not let to advantage till a late whimsical colonel M—, of C—k, rented it, who argues there is no vent, as he expresses it, for money, in Edinburgh; and that, except at London, Bath, and Paris, where he confesses one may get clear of money, if they are anxious, he knows no where that one can get twenty-seven thousand

pounds sterling a year spent, which, it seems, is his annuity.

The elegant and useful arts are, perhaps, as far advanced in Edinburgh as any where in Europe. Indeed, in architecture they excel here, and in clock-work, &c. they cannot be exceeded; for I found two of the town clocks, notwithstanding their multiplicity of hands and their exposure to the weather, go eight days without varying above half a minute. The idea of a clock was suggested two thousand two hundred years ago at Rome, where one stood at the door of the senate, and cried the hour of the day; and afterward, the better to be heard, with a hammer struck a bell, to tell the hour. The clock-smiths here seem to have improved this idea, and carried their art to the summit of perfection.

The value of land is increasing here, as well as in most parts of Britain. Not far from Westminster-bridge, an acre and a few perches of land, which, in the year 1504, was let for two shillings and eight-pence per annum, is now let at two hundred and fifty pounds sterling, on building leases; so, in some places here, particularly between the New and Old Town, some pieces of ground are of a hundred times more value than they were twenty years ago.

Coals, though dug from pits in the neighbourhood, are nearly as dear here as in London, owing to the increase of the city, and the expense of land carriage. Till the days of queen Elizabeth, it was customary to sit, in winter, in dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, parlours, &c. without fire, having only a little straw, or hay on the floor, to keep their feet warm. If the price of fuel continues to increase here, as it has

done for some time past, the poor, and even middling classes, will be obliged to shut up their fireplaces, and adopt the old custom.

When a bee happens to be out in boisterous weather, it takes up a small stone, or something to ballast its body, and bring it down, when likely to be carried away. The fisherwomen here, as well as at Aberdeen, and many other places, seem to imitate the bees in this particular. When they have sold their fish, they sometimes put stones, if they have nothing to carry, into the fish creel, or basket, as they find more ease, they say, in walking with than without some weight on their back. But I do not find that the fish-women of the coast of Scotland imitate the bees, in generously giving a part of their fish to other women, when their husbands have been unsuccessful in fishing, and caught nothing. It is well ascertained, that, if a bee, which happens to have been unsuccessful in quest of food, meet one that has been successful, the unsuccessful bee, on communicating his wants to his successful brother, is always supplied with something to enable him to pursue his excursion, or return to the hive, as he shall judge most prudent.

Unexpected events sometimes happen, and men are often punished when they least expect it. A captain of the army, a handsome young man, having been lately stationed with his party at St. Andrews, seduced a pious clergyman's daughter. When the young woman could conceal the matter no longer, being afraid and ashamed to tell her father, she wrote to her brother, a lieutenant in the army, at that time in England. The moment he perceived

his sister's disgrace, he went, having obtained leave of absence, to St. Andrews; and learning that his sister's seducer was at Edinburgh, he, without telling his father, or any person, his reason, having ordered a carriage, set out with his sister thither. Learning that the captain resided at a respectable coffee-house, in the New Town, he landed there, and was ushered into the very next room where the captain and some brother officers were pushing about the bottle after dinner. Having a clergyman with him, the lieutenant desired the waiter to tell the captain a gentleman in the next room wished to speak with him. The captain immediately came. Upon his entrance into the room, the lieutenant, without saying a word, locked the door, and, putting the key into his pocket, said, pointing to his sister, sir, do you know that lady? After some hesitation and astonishment, he said he did. Then, replied the lieutenant, raising his voice, as you are unmarried, and there is a clergyman a waiting, by God, if you do not marry her before you leave this room, I will blow out your brains. Therefore, say whether you will or not.

The captain, upon being sternly asked a second time, said he would. Then, said the lieutenant to his sister, Bess, are you willing to marry him? Yes, brother, replied she, trembling. The clergyman, who was in an adjoining room, finding them, by the lieutenant's order, holding one another by the hand, and professing their marriage, declared them before two witnesses, married persons, which, according to the laws of Scotland, is quite sufficient. The lieutenant, immediately took his hat, and, leaving the room,

said, sir, I leave my sister under your care; and, by all that is sacred, if you are uncivil to her, I will kick you out of the world.—I dined here one day with this hasty married captain, who, it seems, makes an affectionate and an attentive husband.

Next day I fell in with Mr. O—, on his way from London to the Mearns, where he had been a mason, and courted a poor girl, a servant maid; but, something coming in the way, he went to Jamaica, and, by means of a neat dial he had made, got acquainted with the governor; and, in the course of about a dozen of years, made a handsome fortune by his business, with which he returned to his native country. Though, for several years, Mr. O— had forgot the young woman he had courted, and she him, yet, having a desire to see her, as he learned she was unmarried, in a hunting dress, with dogs, horses, servants, &c. he went to the place where she resided; and, having found her reaping in the fields, he called her to him. Having been habituated to be among fine dressed ladies, and she past the bloom of life, he did not feel much attachment to her, when he saw her. Therefore, putting a bit of paper in her hand, which she put into her bosom, without looking at it, he bid her adieu. When she went to the reapers, she was reading the bit of paper, but could not make it out; nor could her master. In the evening, therefore, she went to the parson of the parish, to see what it meant. A handsome young man, one of the reapers, who had some attachment to her, went to escort her to the parson's in the evening; and, finding it a five hundred pound note, married her next day; and she now lives happily.

With regard to Mr. O. having married a fine dashing young lady, he wished every day of his life he had married the country girl, as she is the mother of some fine children, and his lady, notwithstanding the swinging antlers he wears, or supposes he wears, has none.

It is found impossible to keep some people out of scrapes. Mr. A—, the son of a Scotch general, having been married some years, found himself considerably in debt, though he had no children, and an estate of a thousand a year. After his lady's death, his rents, having been seized by his creditors, at the age of fifty, he went to London to try his fortune in the market of love, on an annuity from his creditors of two hundred pounds a year. Being a general's son, and having some acquaintance there, who learned his situation, he got introduced to a maiden lady, seventy-two years of age, who had at her disposal about fifty thousand pounds, and who was disposed, even at that age, to enter the pale of matrimony. Mr. A— finding this, proposed the matter to her, and hinted that the only thing which prevented him pushing the matter more anxiously, was, some little embarrassment in his circumstances. She asked how much would make him easy? He said five, though he should have said seven thousand pounds. She immediately gave him the five thousand. He married her; and, after having lived with him three or four years, she died; and here I found him on his way to the north, nearly as poor as ever.

He finds himself too far down the hill of life for trying his fortune at Bath; and it is too expensive for him to live at London. The truth is, he does not

know what to do. He has an extensive library of elegantly bound books, but he never looks into it. He has always plenty of books on the bye-tables in his sitting-room, &c. but never puts a hand to them. He makes a tolerable figure at a tea-table, or in a ball-room; and is well acquainted with that species of conversation which pleases women; but then he is never happy, except when he has a crowd around him at dinner, and this he cannot afford.

It generally happens, that no sooner does a man get rich than he mounts some one rocking horse or other. This was evidently the case with a gentleman I saw in Edinburgh. After having, in the East Indies, made a considerable fortune, he began to think of his mother, who lived in a hut, in Aberdeenshire. Wishing to be esteemed and admired in his own country, all at once, when she was now sixty years of age, and happy at her wheel, spinning for her daily bread, he bought a large house for her, sent her a splendid carriage, with servants, elegant furniture, &c. and stored her cellars well with wine, rum, brandy, porter, &c. and plenty of the best Tokay; desiring her to live like a lady, and see her friends. The coach coming unexpectedly to the door of her hut, while she was spinning, with her cat purring in her lap, her only companion, and her hen lying warming herself at the fire-side, she was immediately taken and arrayed in a fine silk gown, a black velvet hood, &c. and thus splendidly rigged by an elegant lady, that came in the coach to be her servant and companion. The old woman was surprised, when the coach landed, and could scarcely believe what she saw. After she was dressed, the cat would

not come near her, and her hen, flying over their heads, got out at the door, and could not be found. The old woman insisted upon taking her wheel, her cat, her hen, and some other things into the carriage. But her servants, especially her maid, objected to this, saying, the cat was ugly, the wheel black and dirty, and not fit to go into a coach. After much altercation, the servants prevailed upon her to leave every thing, which she consented to, except her cat and her hen, which went along with her with much reluctance.

This good old woman, in two or three days, became quite unhappy in her fine new house, and actually, in the course of a few weeks, left it, the carriage, &c. &c. in the possession of her servants, and went back with her cat and her hen to her old habitation; which, fortunately, was not set on fire, as her coachman had proposed, when she was about to leave it. The only thing the old woman ordered to follow her was some dozens of Tokay, to which she took a liking; and with which, and what the servants now and then sent her, she entertained all her poor neighbours that used to visit her, before her son interrupted her happiness. The truth is, had he settled a few pounds a year on her, he would have shewn himself a wiser man, and added more to his mother's happiness, than by what he did. As Dr. Johnson said of the Scots, if you catch them young, you may make any thing of them; but, to alter, to any considerable extent, one's way of life, after the habits are completely formed, supposing thereby to add to their happiness, is folly in the extreme. The old woman, in her hut, how-

ever, with two or three of her neighbours, learned to discuss every day a few bottles of Tokay, till she began to learn that each of them cost half a guinea. I fell in with a relation of the old woman's here.

The high school of Edinburgh is undoubtedly the best grammar-school in Scotland, and produces as good Latin and Greek scholars as any school in England; but it is to be lamented, that, as is the case at Eton, Westminster, Harrow, Winchester, &c. a very great proportion of the young men bred at this school have their morals so corrupted, that they become scarcely good for any thing; and it is notorious that the lane, or street, leading to the high school, is inhabited by some of the most abandoned of both sexes in Scotland.

Notwithstanding that Edinburgh is the first medical school in Europe, and the physicians here know their duty as well as any in the world, yet quack's and old women's prescriptions sometimes prove successful, when theirs do not. I am led to this remark, from what I myself saw. While I was at dinner, one day, with my friend, Mr. Murray, a gentleman that had made a fortune at Demerara, and whom I had known when I lived in the north country, a well dressed woman came to his house, and, being admitted to the room where we were, fell a weeping, saying to Mr. Murray, "My husband's head is so much swelled, that you cannot see an eye in his head; and, as some of the best physicians in Edinburgh, as well as the Messrs. Woods, have given him over, what will become of me and my poor children? I have heard you have skill, and I shall be much obliged to you if you will come and see him."

Soon after Mr. M. took his umbrella, it being a rainy day, and I accompanied him. When we saw the man, his head, indeed, was as big as three ordinary heads, and not an eye was to be seen. Mr. M. said to the woman, follow me, which she did; then taking her to a small garden he had, he took some red cabbage leaves, and desiring her, when she had parboiled them, to put them into a clean flannel bag; and, when drained, lay them by way of pillow under his head, as hot as he possibly could bear them. The woman did so; soon after which he went to sleep, though he had scarcely slept any for ten days before; and, when he awaked, which was not till after seven hours, his head, being reduced to its natural size, to the inexpressible joy of his wife and family, he could see, speak, and hear, as also eat, none of which he had done for near eight days before. In three or four days, the man, who was a butcher, and who had caught cold in his head, was at his business, and quite well.

The very next day, Mr. M. was applied to by another north country woman, whose husband was extremely ill, and swelled with the dropsy; and who said, that the physicians, having tapped him twice, had given him over. We went to see him also; when Mr. M. desired the woman, whose name was Macdonald, to send for some hands full of *digitalis*, or foxglove, (a well-known herb that grows about rocks and by the way side, and has a number of beautiful purple flowers like ladies thimbles); and having boiled it, give her husband some table spoonsful of the juice now and then, and put the herb, when boiled and drained, into a flannel bag, as hot

as he could bear it, about his belly and thighs. This she did; and the consequence was, that, in the morning, the swelling was almost gone, and her husband, having been for some time kept warm, with care, which this regimen requires, is as stout and healthy at this day as any man in Britain. In a word, well-informed as the physicians here are, they are sometimes mistaken. It is well known, and Grose, in his History of India, confirms it, that when the Gentoo physicians give a patient an emetic, a cathartic, or the like, they only put the dose into his hand, below his arm-pit, or some fold of the body, to be held there for two or three minutes; and, in due time, the medicine operates, in the same manner as if taken in by the mouth. Mercury, it is well known, has the same effect, whether taken in at the mouth, or rubbed on the body. Why do the physicians oblige us to swallow Glaubar salts, castor oil, and other nauseous draughts, when the Gentoo physicians produce the desired effect without giving their patients that trouble?

But it is true, our physicians begin to apply more external remedies than formerly, and to take lessons from rude nations; and it is a notorious fact, that they recommend in rheumatisms the same cure that was recommended to Captain Cook by the queen of Otaheite, the pinching all his body between the thumb and fingers. And, in hot countries, when one catches the yellow fever, the physicians generally strip the patient naked, and, laying him on a table, rub mercury into him, as if they were salting beef; at least, this is the way the physicians in Jamaica treated a colonel who caught the fever there, but by this

treatment soon recovered, while those that were not treated so died.

Camomile, which is a preparation of mercury and laudanum, seems to be the chief ingredient given now in most medicines in Edinburgh. There are, no doubt, as they are both found to purify the blood, excellent medicines, but it is well known the one weakens the constitution, by causing an excess of perspiration, and the other is of a binding nature. Indeed, laudanum is so commonly used here, that it is given to lap-dogs, horses, &c. There are now hospitals in London for horses, lap-dogs, &c. and they are talking of adopting the same plan at Edinburgh. Indeed, every farmer now has his opiuum box, and gives his horse an opium pill, to lull him asleep when any thing is the matter with him; and so much is the health of this noble animal studied now, that government allow a higher salary to the surgeon of a regiment of horse than to the surgeon of a regiment of foot, for which I see no other reason than that the life of a horse is more valued than that of a man; as, if he died, he would cost government more money than a man would.

The Advocates Library is a noble collection, and contains every thing useful, as well as rare and curious, in literature. Indeed, if I mistake not, it is equal to the Bodleian at Oxford, and the National Library at Paris, and inferior to none in Europe, except the Vatican at Rome. The taste for books seems almost completely changed in Scotland, as well as in England, since the days of king William and queen Anne. During her reign, government sent a great number of books to each presby-

tery, as also to some parishes in Bamffshire, Murrayshire, &c. upon the supposition that the clergy and people were ignorant, and so poor, that they were not able to buy books. However, as most of these parish and presbytery libraries consist in commentaries and expositions of the Old and New Testament with books of controversial divinity, they are now almost completely useless, since few either of the clergy, or people, seem to trouble themselves with these matters.

During my stay at Edinburgh, I went to hear Rowland Hill, the famous field preacher, who happened to be there, and found, I suppose, about ten thousand people about him. One day at breakfast, this gentleman, hearing his servant-maids disputing about washing the passage, each saying it was not her work, he came out to them, and calling for the mop and water, stooped down, and was washing it himself, saying, "As Mrs. Hill says it must be washed, and none of you will do it, it seems I must do it myself." Upon this, both the maids began, and by a kind of violence prevented him from doing it. Upon another occasion, in a very rainy evening, happening to be near the kitchen door, he heard a dispute between John, the coachman, and one of the maids, about going out for something wanted; and John arguing that his only business was to look after the horses, and drive the carriage, when ordered. Upon hearing this, Mr. Hill went to his room, rang the bell, and ordered the coachman to be called. The coachman, having put too the horses, and come round to the door, which he did under a heavy fall of rain, was ordered to drive

the maid to the fishmongers for sixpenceworth of oysters, saying, " As you did not choose to take an umbrella and step out for them yourself, you must take the trouble of driving her thither." I had heard these and other anecdotes of this famous field-preacher, which made me the more attentively listen to him. From his attitudes, his tones, his gestures, his phraseology, and his notions of religion, I thought, and still think, having heard him more than once since, that he has more zeal than knowledge. It is his peculiarities more than his parts, that seem to draw attention.

Indeed, with many, the most ridiculous parts of his conduct are most approved. For instance, not long ago a great croud of people having assembled to hear him at Edinburgh, and having waited and sung psalms till they were fatigued, they sent to see whether he was to preach to them or not. At length he mounted the pulpit, told them his nose had been bleeding much, and, as a proof of it, waved about in his hand a large white bloody handkerchief; and, spreading it all bloody, over the Bible, on the pulpit, he desired them to sing a hymn, mentioning it to them, and that he would return to them in a little time; which they did, with seemingly new and additional strains of fervent devotion. The hymn he desired them to sing dwells upon the merits of the blood of Jesus, and his dying to save guilty man. Curiosity had led great numbers to hear him at Edinburgh; but I could see, from their groaning and other circumstances, that many of them were either tinctured with hypocrisy or fanaticism. Among the Wesley-

ites, and some other denominations of Dissenters, there are persons, it seems, appointed, or at least encouraged for groaning at certain times during the sermon, with a view to induce others to do so, and thus raise the reputation of the preacher, as well as that of the sect to which he belongs; and he is thought the best preacher who produces the greatest number of groans, whether they are accompanied with tears or not. A poor woman, coming lately to see a friend at Edinburgh, being better dressed and cleaner than she had been for years before, was asked how she came to be so much altered for the better. She whispered, that she was appointed one of the groaners, and had beside victuals and drink, clothes, and a weekly allowance. Indeed, I was led to conclude that some of the groaners had either been employed, or had volunteered their services to Mr. Hill; but, if employed, he had unfortunately not fallen on the best, as some of them made the most noise, when, at least so far as I am a judge, there was least occasion for it.

There are women in Edinburgh who live by the wages of iniquity as well as elsewhere. Colquhoun, in his Police of London, and he seems to have had tolerably good information, says, that there are fifty thousand women on the town, besides ten thousand that live partly by prostitution and partly by other means. The hospitals and physicians books in Edinburgh seem to indicate, that though in proportion to the population there are not so many riotous eaters of flesh, there are as many viciously inclined people in Edinburgh as in London.

Though the poor's rates in England amount to five millions sterling annually, and three of those are paid in London and its environs, and there are no poor's rates in Scotland, yet there are fewer beggars in proportion to the number of inhabitants in Edinburgh than in London; which seems to be owing to this circumstance, that though the Scots have many faults, and laziness is none of the least, yet there is, if I may so express myself, in general, a noble pride about them that induces them to live on their own earnings, however scanty, rather than on the bounty of others.

It is astonishing how much influence grief and disappointment have upon some persons compared with others. Miss R—, from the province of Murray, whom I saw here, is a fine healthy young woman, not much above twenty years of age; but her hair, which was quite black, in the course of a few days became white as wool, from the vexation that she was found not to be the wife of a rich baronet, though she thought that, by the Scotch laws, she was.

It is strange that the magistrates of Edinburgh, who are, in general, men of parts and discernment, should appoint any one to the office of town crier that neither can read Scotch nor English. I heard one of them, when reading an advertisement, blunder almost at every word, and pronounce the very first word advertisement, laying the accent on the third syllable, when it should have been on the second, and confounding the word shops, where goods are sold, with the word chops, meaning the mouth and jaws. Indeed, at Aberdeen, till lately, they ge-

nerally pronounced both these words the same way. Upon the eve of a king's fast day there, about a year ago, one of the town crier's proclaimed, that, as to-morrow was a fast day, by order of the magistrates, no one within the liberties of the city, under pain of fining and imprisonment, should open their shops; but he pronounced it chops, from morning till night. An Englishman, who happened to be there, imagining that the magistrates had ordered that none should open their mouth to eat all that time, left the city, swearing, for his part, he would not obey them: and that, as the magistrates were fools for issuing such an order, so he thought the people would be fools if they obeyed it.

It is unfortunate that the police of modern times cannot prevent low ribaldry and abominable language from being used in the streets. At the end of the Cannongate I heard a man of a decent appearance most emphatically pray that the devil would come with his broom and sweep all the excise officers, tide waiters, &c. into hell. I would have complained to a magistrate, and got the fellow punished, as he certainly deserved, for his emphatic prayer, but found, that civilised and improved as every thing is here, yet the conduct of great numbers of the lower orders is most abandoned.

One half of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, as well as of Perth, Stirling, and many other towns in Scotland, are evidently originally from the Highlands: and, in general, all the drudgery and severe labour is performed by people from those places, who are generally stout and well made, in the same man-

ner as all the drudgery in London is generally done by the Irish, and, in some cases, the Welsh. Those from the Shetland and Orkney Islands, many of whom also settle here, have not only a peculiar cast of countenance, and darkish colour, but they are, in general, not so tall as the Highlanders. The Icelanders, who discovered Greenland, in the tenth century, observed, that scarcely any of the inhabitants exceeded five feet in height: and the French philosophers, who, many years ago, were sent to measure a degree of longitude upon the arctic circle, found a Lapland lady suckling her first child, that was only four feet and one inch high. There is evidently something in extreme cold that nips and retards the growth of animals as well as vegetables, which in extreme latitudes are always of the dwarfish kind.

I could not help observing the conduct of a Roman Catholic gentleman, with whom I dined one Friday, while in Edinburgh. No consideration could ever, I understand, induce him to eat flesh on a Friday, as, it being against the law of his church, he thought it would subject him to severe punishment, not only in this, but in the world to come; but, at the same time, he seemed to think that there was no harm in playing at cards, attending balls and assemblies, getting drunk, wenching, &c. on Sunday.

It has been observed, that a considerable proportion of the peers never marry; and that, when they do, it is generally very young women. But the same may be said of the gentlemen in Edinburgh in general; for a considerable proportion of them do

not marry at all; and (contrary to the conduct of Irish fortune hunters, who do not hesitate to marry any woman, be she old or young, handsome or the contrary, provided she has money) when they are old, marry women often not one-third of their own age. But though old men of fortune generally, when they marry, choose young women, this whim seldom seizes young ladies of fortune, and those who have it in their power to choose a husband. There are, however, some exceptions: since a young lady in London lately, who had more than fifty thousand pounds at her own disposal, proposed the matter, and actually married the physician who attended her father on his death-bed, though he was nearly three times her own age, and there were more than a dozen of young handsome men, not only English, but Irish, anxiously soliciting her hand.

It is astonishing that so many, both in Scotland and the great towns in England, should be so much imposed upon by wine merchants. Certain it is, that the gentlemen in the Highlands, and all round the coasts of Scotland, have, in general, much better and much cheaper wine than they have in the capital. The truth is, that in Edinburgh, as well as in London, it is no uncommon thing, if one examines into the matter, to find, in many wine cellars, a fellow standing in a hogshead of sugar, with a common gardener's spade in his hand, throwing sugar into a large vat, half filled with water; which, being stirred about frequently, mixed with alum water, corn brandy, and then a small proportion of real wine put into it, they ferment, bottle up, and palm on the public as the genuine blood of the

grape. The Lacedemonians, in general, boiled their wine down a fifth part, and kept it four years. Few wine merchants in Edinburgh, I am afraid, imitate the Lacedemonians in either of these particulars.

In visiting one of the church-yards here, where they have got into the way of burying in a row, and going round regularly from one end to the other, I found a dog had been buried in it, through the affection of his master, who, being a man of property, had travelled the continent, and taken this dog to Rome with him, left him there with a friend, and returned to Edinburgh. Six months after his master had left Rome, this dog, it seems, leaving Rome, set out alone in quest of his master, and tracing his route through Italy over the Alps, through France, &c. he at length arrived at Calais. Though often prevented by the sailors, this dog, at length, was permitted to come on board, at Calais, by means of a gentleman who wished to have it, though by this time nothing but skin and bone, having nothing but what he could steal or pick from dunghills by the way. All the way from Calais to Dover the gentleman was attentive to this dog, and thought he had gained his affection; when, to his surprise, a few yards before they arrived at Dover, the dog jumped overboard, and swimming ashore, ran off as fast as he could. The collar on his neck told to whom he belonged; and, in less than six weeks from the time he had left Rome, this faithful animal arrived at his master's house at Edinburgh,

This brings to my mind the dog belonging to a gentleman in Aberdeen, which ran about half a mile,

and pulled a man by the skirt to where his master had fallen through the ice into the river Dee in a dark night, and was supported by his musket hat rested upon the edges of the ice where he had fallen; and the dog that a noble and highly respectable peer informs us, went and drowned himself because another dog had got, after repeated attempts on his part to prevent it, before him in his master's favour. Nor can I forbear to mention here, as another striking instance of the reason, as well as moral sentiment or sensation of animals, a well-authenticated story or anecdote of a cat belonging to a respectable and very good friend of mine residing at this moment within a very few miles of London. The cat was, of what the connoisseurs in cats call the Persian breed; that is to say, short in the body, but high on the legs. It was a sensible and a remarkably playful creature. Its master was wont to caress it very much, and feed it with too great a proportion of the cream allotted for breakfast and tea, for which he now and then got heartily scolded. Whether from grateful attachment, or by way of soliciting more cream, it would sit down for hours on the table on which he was writing, and now and then amuse itself by catching at the pen, as it moved, with which he wrote. One of her kittens died: it was the winter season. My friend's wife, with himself, was sitting by the fire, when in comes the cat, following the maid, when she opened the door, with her dead kitten in her mouth. She laid it down close by her mistress's feet, mewed piteously, and gently pushed her mistress's legs with her head, evidently imploring

her to restore the kitten to life. She had conceived an idea that the lady could do something for the kitten that she could not do herself. There is not a doubt but the more sagacious animals of the domesticated kind have some notions of men, similar to what men have of invisible and intelligent powers. To the inferior animals man is a god. It is affirmed by some, that the feline race is incapable of ingratitude, or any social virtue. They are rapacious, it is true: but not altogether unsocial. Were a dozen of rooms open to them, they would sit down in that which has company in it, and that too vey near the company.

Having introduced church-yards, I cannot help mentioning the difference between the Scotch and English mode of interment. In Scotland there are scarcely ever more than one laid above another in the same grave. In England, but particularly in many church-yards about London, there are often fourteen or more laid, one above another, in the same grave, and sometimes the fees to the clergyman, grave-digger, &c. &c. particularly if there be a lead coffin, amounts, for they will not take one farthing less, to forty-seven pounds fifteen shillings and seven-pence, for liberty to be huddled up among this mass of mortality; and so difficulted are they for room in the church-yards about London, that often before day, in the morning, cart-loads of dust, bones of aldermen, &c. &c. are, after having been sold, driven out to manure the fields.—All this is particularly exemplified at St. George's burying-ground, at the end of Oxford-Road.

There is an indecency of dress and conduct to be met, sometimes, in Edinburgh, as well as elsewhere. The ladies at the opera, and other play-houses in London, have many of them not only their bosoms, but also their neck behind almost quite naked, and in this they are too often imitated by the ladies in the north; and those of them who have not money to spare, to buy Hungary and honey waters, Italian paste, and the like, to wash and anoint themselves, put, now and then, round their necks, &c. the skin of *sowens* (a well known Scotch dish) well boiled, which is a strong drastic, and which cleans and whitens what it covers, astonishingly. They put this on the face also, like a face-cloth, with holes for their eyes, mouth and nose, and go equipped in this manner to bed for a few hours. Upon washing themselves, they find all the black particles sucked out of their face, neck, arms, &c. This is in fact a cosmetic, for which, with some quackery for disguising it, and under another name, some Londoner might, with great advantage to himself, take out a patent.

There are beautiful clumps and plantations of trees to be found all around Edinburgh, and indeed now about most towns and gentlemen's seats. Even in many of the northern counties, nothing is more common than to transplant trees, of all kinds, fruit as well as forest trees, eighteen and twenty feet high. Nay, cherry trees, &c. of any size, in full bloom, it is found, may be transplanted, without any injury done to the blossom, provided the fibres of the roots are not suffered to dry, and the hole in which the roots are put be filled with thick muddy water. In-

deed, such is the bounty of nature, and the facility with whic the juices flow through plants, that it is now ascertained, if you put the branches of almost any tree into the ground, in a sheltered place, and turn their roots uppermost, these roots will grow into branches, and bear fruit, and the branches being pruned, and put into the hole in muddy water, turn into roots.

Though colleges are often only hospitals for old opinions, yet this is not the case with the college at Edinburgh; as the professors are left to treat the subjects belonging to their department as they please. In some colleges, the professors, by the conditions of their benefice, are kept in a kind of trammels, with regard to both the books to be used as text, or class books, and the doctrines to be taught. Such restriction is of no great detriment when it extends only to the language in which instruction is to be conveyed, as is the case with the professors of church history at St. Andrews. They are obliged, by the presentation to their livings, to give their lectures in Latin. I attended that class, during three years at St. Andrews, and never heard the professor, in his public character, speak one word of English all that time. Fortunately, professor Brown, who then filled the chair, and whose goodness and attention to me, as well as to the students in general, I shall never forget, could speak Latin with as much ease and fluency as English; and such Latin, being pure, was readily understood. One of the other professors of divinity also lectures in Latin. The third professor discourses in English.

Notwithstanding the improvements about Edin-

burgh, I could not help observing thistles, rag-weed, furze, broom, &c. too frequently in its neighbourhood, not only on the road side, but even in some of the fields. It is well known, that the seeds of thistles, rag-weed, and the like, ar blown with the wind, and that though furze, as lord Kaimes observes, is the only shrub in Britain that flowers all the year round; and broom in bloom is one of the most beautiful shrubs we have, and appears like gold at a distance, yet they ought, if possible, to be completely extirpated out of those parts of the country where sheep are not reared. And, it is to be hoped, the day is not far distant, when the farmers, who allow thistles, rag-weed, and the like, to seed on their fields, without having attempted to prevent them, will be subjected to a penalty.

It is found that no persuasion can induce the natives of New South Wales to wear clothes; and that, some of these, of both sexes, are every day to be seen in the streets of Parramata, the chief city at Botany Bay, walking among well-dressed people, completely naked; and that the first families in that country are often served at table by their servants in that state: which, however disagreeable at first, after some time, gives Europeans no more trouble than to see a naked dog, or a naked horse. Indeed, in Edinburgh, London, &c. matters are not much different; fine ladies often appear both within and without doors, with sometimes little else than a thin muslin gown on them; and some of our young men display their shapes, particularly in summer, in thin, light flesh-coloured silk pantaloons, reaching from their ankles almost to their neck. The ladies in

Oliver Cromwell's days would have risen in rebellion, had men worn such a dress. But habit becomes a second nature; and we take as little notice of such dresses, as the gentlemen lately going through the city of Moscow attending a funeral did, when they saw nearly a hundred beautiful young ladies, who had been in the Bath, come out stark naked, to view the funeral procession.

It is, I think, surprising they have not a greater number of natural and artificial curiosities for the inspection of those that visit the metropolis of Scotland. Natural history, as well as chemistry, being not only a rational, but now a fashionable study, should induce the magistrates, professors, &c. to collect materials from every quarter. And, as there are Scots in elevated stations scattered over all the face of the earth, still attached to their native country, there is not a doubt, were it even hinted to them, but they would send such an astonishing variety of materials as would soon form one of the most extensive and valuable museums in Europe. Indeed, the collection of wild beasts at Edinburgh is but trifling. The eagle, at St. Omers, belonging to the Benedictine monks, which is three hundred and forty years old, collects many people to see it, and the beasts and birds which Pidcock, at London, has, is, I believe, a source of advantage to himself, as well as of amusement and instruction to the public. Why is there not a collection upon an extensive scale at Edinburgh? However, with regard to the animals themselves, it is better there is not; as the exhibitors of such animals, like Robinson Crusoe with the goat he had caught in a pit, generally tame them

by starving. The truth is, were it not for the eatables the monkeys, squirrels, &c. &c. get from children, and others, that go to see them at Pidcock's, they would in all probability die for want. I saw the monkeys, &c. one evening get supper, and one of them, poor little thing, only got one small boiled potatoe, the large ones, in a minute, having devoured all that was set before them. This little creature, as well as the eagles and other birds, who still cried and looked for more, was extremely angry; and, having cracked some nuts, which a gentleman that was with me gave it, the monkey threw those back in his face, that, when opened, were found empty. Indeed, it seemed to know, by the feel and weight, whether they were empty or not, before it opened them. As for the elephant, he ate a bushel of apples, that a visitor allowed him, throwing them quickly, one after another, with his proboscis, into his mouth; and when he had sucked up six pots of porter, one after another, which he did in less than a minute, and seemed to relish much, he stretched out his proboscis to the gentleman and me, as it were, to shake hands with us; and, while he thanked us for the porter and apples we gave him, ask us for more. When I first saw him reach out his proboscis, I confess I was afraid; but, after he got the porter and apples, he became extremely kind to me; though I confess I did not like his putting his proboscis into my pocket, to see if I had any apples in it.

There are, perhaps, not baser characters to be found any where than sometimes in Edinburgh. Seeing a tall stout man, crossing the Cannon-gate,

one day; and asking a friend, that was with me, if he knew him, he replied, "yes, it is that scoundrel Mr. B—, brother-in-law to a certain right honourable lady." Mr. B—; it seems, having been introduced and recommended to a rich good-hearted old man, at Plymouth, was for several months almost a daily guest at his table, and provided with a good place by him on board of a first-rate man of war. But about the time Mr. B— was to enter on board, one of the good old man's daughters was taken ill. The physician, being sent for, found her some months gone with child. All the family were astonished when they learned the cause of her disorder, but when the young woman's mother heard that Mr. B— was the father, she, as also two of her daughters, who were with her at the time, actually fainted. It was the thoughts that Mr. B— had, at different times, and unknown to them, seduced the mother, and three of her five daughters, that affected them all so much. That providence permits such wretches to live is more than we short-sighted mortals can well account for. Mr. B— is an Irishman; and, as there are many of his countrymen settled in Germany, Hungary, &c. and all along the banks of the Danube, from its rise in Swabia, to its entrance into the Black Sea, so, I understand, he is gone to try if he can, like them, pick up a rich widow on the continent.

During the time I staid in Edinburgh, I only observed one person, a big boy from the country, wearing *mire-pipes*, or stockings without feet, called in some parts of Scotland, *huggers*. The English smile at the Scots for this part of their dress, which

as well as many of the customs in England, almost completely laid aside. But, as in Scotland, in many places, there are rivers without bridges, marshy ground, and bad roads, in such places, stockings of this kind are sometimes useful, as they tend to keep the legs from chopping, while they are easily adjusted to the waters, or marshes to be passed. The truth is, when the poor people, who used to wear them, came to a mire, a rivulet, or the like, through which they found it necessary to pass, they pulled up the stocking, without pulling it off; and, having waded through, went on for a few minutes, till their legs dried, and then pulled them down.

Notwithstanding that an union took place between Scotland and England, a hundred years ago, and the daily intercourse that takes place between these kingdoms, there are leading features in the character of each, which shew that they are not yet completely blended; and, unfortunately, the late attempt to revive the Gaelic language, with other circumstances, has prevented that comixture of the Highlanders with the other inhabitants of Scotland, that would tend to their mutual advantage, and to induce them to pull together as one, when government shall have occasion for their services. Indeed, there seems to be something defective, with respect to the assimilation of the manners of the subjects in most of the governments of Europe. At Vienna, the Hungarians are allowed to settle nearly in one part of the city, whereas the emperor ought to use means that they may be spread nearly equally over the whole city; that they may the more easily coalesce with his other subjects. In London, the

Irish, in general, settle in the parish of St. Giles; and, owing to this, some of them, both men and women, after being twenty years in London, have nearly as much of the Irish brogue, and the manners of Ireland, as they had the day they left it. This also, in a certain degree, is the case with the Scots; who, as they generally come by sea, land and take up their abode at Wapping, if unfortunate in other parts of London. Consequently, almost all the inhabitants of Wapping, and its vicinity, are either adventurers from Scotland, or sprung from Scotch people. Nor is it much different with the Highlanders, when they arrive at Edinburgh; for, as they generally associate together, and live as near as possible to that part of the city, where the Highlanders have taken up their abode, there is, as it were, a Highland Town, in the midst of the capital of Scotland.

As at Paris, Madrid, Vienna, Rome, Constantinople, London, &c. the mountaineers and people from the skirts of the empire generally are the porters, draymen, scavengers, &c. so it is at Edinburgh. For almost all the chairmen, cadies, porters, watchmen, and other drudges, in Edinburgh, are from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

At Edinburgh, I learnt some particulars respecting the UDALLERS, or holders of property by *allodial* and *immemorial* right or tenure in the Orkneys and Shetland islands, into which I had not had time to make due inquiry during my short residence in the former; nor yet into the condition of the lower or labouring class of the people.

A war of pamphlets had arisen between the lairds

and the tenants, the only discrimination of ranks known in Shetland, with the exception, perhaps, of some shopkeepers in Lerwick: a Mr. Mowatt, one of the lairds, on the side of his order; and two of the ministers of Edinburgh, one of whom had been sent as a missionary to Shetland, by the *society in Scotland for propagating christian knowledge*, on that of the tenants. From a perusal of those pamphlets, compared with the testimony of some persons from Shetland, then in Edinburgh, or rather Leith, but whose names it might be very inconvenient for them for me to mention, I learnt what follows:

I was right in my conjecture that there was a greater number of udallers yet remaining in the Orkney, and still more in proportion to the number of inhabitants in the Shetland Isles, than one would be ready to infer from Dr. Barry's History of the Orkneys. I also learnt the peculiar causes why allodial yielded to feudal tenures in the county of Orkney and Shetland. These were the facility with which viceroys, stewarts, or lords paramount could oppress small proprietors, amidst many fluctations, and at so great a distance from the seat of law and government. Earl Patrick, a natural son of James V. and brother to Mary queen of Scots, and others after his time, who held the office of stewart of the Orkneys and Shetland, very often evicted* land from the simple udallers, under the pretence that they had no written rights to produce. The dis-

* To evict and eviction are terms in the Scotch law, importing to dispossess, and dispossession, by a judicial process.

possessed udaller, if he was able, paid the price of the lands of which he was dispossessed to the lord paramount of the estates in the neighbourhood, or the viceroy, or stewart of the crown, and held them, in feu, under a superior. Earl Patrick, just mentioned, in a disposition, or transference of the lands of sand to Joram Humphrey, states, that he had evicted seven marks (from twelve to fifteen acres) of that land, from Paul Nicholson, in Culswick, for *stealing a swine*; and that he had evicted six marks from another udaller, in Culswick, for *stealing bolts* from his trood; probably some piece of wreck that had been drawn or driven into Culswick—others, being accused of offences against the laws, and threatened with capital punishment, made their peace with the stewart, by resigning to him their possessions. The violence and oppression exercised by the lords of Orkney and Shetland was gradually diminished by the regular establishment of good laws and government, and was wholly checked and suppressed by the jurisdiction act, in 1748. So that now there does not appear any reason why an udaller, in the Orkney or Shetland Isles, may not enjoy his little property in peace and security, as well as the Aichil and Abernethey lairds above described. As to the redemption of estates by the next of kin, it was never dreamt of in our isles. It was probably the smallness and insignificance of the udal properties, still existing, that preserved them from aristocratical rapacity.

The modes of oppression and rapacity formerly exercised over the poor udallers, in Orkney and Shetland, appear to have been very near a-kin to

those whereby the chancellor, the earl of Perth, sought, with too much success, to swallow up the little estates in Stratherne, in the estate of Drummond.

As to the general state or condition of the bulk or mass of the people in Orkney and Shetland, it would be difficult to find any other term so appropriate, as to say, that it is a state of actual slavery or bondage. They cannot, indeed, be transferred, like slaves or cattle, from one master to another: nay, they may quit the service of any master when they please. But it is next to impossible for them, by any change, to better their condition, if they remain in any of the islands: and, even if they betake themselves to the Greenland fishery, as they sometimes do, they not only cut off an easy retreat and welcome back to their native country; but expose their parents, children, brothers and sisters, and all most dear to them, to the vengeance of the laird or landholder, who warns them of his displeasure, and who, on a few months notice, may turn them out of their houses, and even send them to jail for life: for they are generally, nay almost always in his debt. The aged parents, and young children of the men, who are all fishers, are in fact a kind of hostages to the lairds for what they call their good behaviour: that is, that they shall stay at home, and fish, cut sea-weed for kelp, or perform other service for them, for whatever they please to allow them.—It is in a similar manner that a number of Highland lairds, or landholders, by refusing leases to their tenants, have it almost as much in their power to furnish a number of soldiers to government, as any German prince.

In the Orkneys, the numerous class of the labouring people, or actual cultivators of the soil, are called *Cotters*, who are almost, though not quite, in so helpless and hopeless a state as the Hebridean scallag, who is sctually sometimes stripped naked, tied by the hands to a stake, and scourged by his master without judge or jury. To every considerable farm there is attached a number of cottagers, or *cotters*, each of which has a small garden, or, as they call it, yard, for raising kail, or colewort, with as much grass and corn land as will pasture one or two of their small cows in summer, and furnish provender for them in winter. These cotters are perfectly under the dominion or controul of the tenant, as the tenant again is of the laird or tacksman. He may remove them when he pleases, or when he pleases call upon them, as rent for their little possessions, to work for him at any time of the year, or any sort of employment. Their children, too, when they are able to work, must work for him in the capacity of servants, for whatever wages he thinks reasonable. If they should be bold enough to refuse, their parents might, and probably would, be turned out of their habitations. As for himself, he might find employment at sea, but not easily at land. The tacksmen and tenants set their face, by a tacit compact, against such refractory servants, over whom they are almost as despotic as our managers of theatres, who can easily lay their heads together, are over the poor players.

In the Shetland Isles, where the people have not the same resources in pasture and agriculture, but depend almost wholly on the sea for all necessaries,

the yoke of bondage is wreathed still tighter about the necks of the people. The sea, the unbounded ocean, is naturally associated in our imagination with ideas of freedom; but fishers must have a dwelling, a *domicilium* at land, and this *domicilium* they cannot have without devoting their labour to some landholder on his own terms. The young men may emigrate, which they sometimes do, though they are for the most part retained at home through the influence of the social, generous, and tender passions. Fear lest the laird should visit their presumption in quitting his estate, on their parents, restrains some. The passion of love restrains others, and plunging them into all the wants and cares of a family, inevitably enslaves them for life.

The people of Shetland marry very young. When a young man arrives at the age of eighteen or nineteen years, he goes, for a few months in the summer, to the Greenland fishing, for which he receives from two pounds to fifty shillings. Many of the landholders exact a guinea out of his wages for this indulgence, as they call it. When this is agreed to, his parents may remain without the dread of being turned out of their possession.

When the young lads have been one season at the fishing, they generally consider themselves as men. They are encouraged by their landlords, in order to prevent them from leaving the country, to marry; and the consequence commonly is, that they find themselves involved in debt and large families in a very few years.

The landholders, in order to increase the number of fishermen, and extend the fisheries, on which

chiefly the value of their estates depends, have, within the last thirty years, so divided and subdivided their farms, that in many places where formerly one family possessed eighteen or twenty acres of land, there are now three or more crowded together without decent accommodation, or even the common necessaries of life. Hence the poverty that subjects them to a total dependence on the store-houses of their masters, and renders them more than ever incapable of pursuing the business of fishing on their own account. The negroes in the West Indies do not seem to be more dependent; nay, I am told, often not so much, on the stores of their masters, as the bondmen, for they are, in fact such, in Shetland, on the store-houses and will of the laird. They are obliged to find their own implements, and to sell their fish to the laird, and the laird only, at his own price.

In short, not only all the labour of the poor Shetlander is under the controul of the landholder, but all that he has. Being always in debt to the landlord for articles advanced from his store-house, they dare not sell a cow or sheep without his consent. They must be obedient in all things, right or wrong. They must not only be in bondage, but apparently satisfied with their bondage. If they murmur, or meditate emigration, the landlord is beforehand with them, and coerces or punishes them in some shape or other,

Of the evil of dividing and subdividing the farms so much, and reducing the people to so miserable a state of poverty and dependence, the most judicious of the landholders have become sensible. They

would willingly enlarge their farms to the former extent, grant leases, and even commute personal service, or prædial bondage, for monied rents. But it is scarcely possible to find tenants in circumstances to stock them. The experiment of emancipating, as it has been called, the poor Shetlanders, has been tried, as stated above, by my reverend friend, in Shetland, in vain. What can the best men, the most philanthropic, and the wisest legislature do? Slavery, or bondage, is a great evil, but the sudden removal of even this evil may lead to greater evils. Were a law to be enacted, that bondage, or personal services in the Shetland isles, should immediately be abolished, rents paid in money, leases granted for nineteen years, and that too of farms of a reasonable extent; tenants would be wanting of sufficient stock or capital; the land would be neglected; and the fishing wholly abandoned; the national wealth and revenue would be impaired, and thousands of people reduced to famine: for they cannot apply to the business of fishing, their only resource, without the aid of their landlords. In short, the human race has existed, and continues to exist, in a vast variety of conditions, and a state of bondage is one of them. This condition is to be ameliorated not by a rash, incisive, and destructive hand, but by operations gentle and gradual, as opportunities offer, and circumstances invite.

The Shetland tenants, beside their rents, pay the following taxes:

First, that called *Scatt*, about 6d. on every mark of arable land, with a due proportion of pasture

ground. The Scatt was antiently paid to the kings of Norway; and, upon the cession of the Orkney and Shetland islands to Scotland, was transferred to the Scottish crown. Afterwards, when these were conveyed by the sovereign to vassals, or feudatory chiefs, the Scatt was considered as granted along with the superiority. It was paid to earl PATRICK, and the earls of Morton; and is now, in consequence of purchase, paid to lord Dundas. Notwithstanding this, the tenants are obliged to pay their proportion of the ordinary *cess*, or land-tax, to the crown.

Secondly, *corn tiend*, or *tythe*. Of this, one half is paid to the patron, lord Dundas, and the other to the minister of the parish. To the proprietor, a cock or a hen, for every mark of land. They pay also three days labour in the year to the laird, and as much to the minister.

Thirdly, *ox and sheep money*. In the year 1600, earl Patrick having obtained a grant from the crown of the Shetlands as well as the Orkneys, built the castle of Scalloway on the main land, and, among other oppressive exactions, compelled the people of both countries to furnish annually a certain number of oxen and sheep for his table, which were paid for at a certain fixed rate of composition. This exaction, being transmitted along with the superiority, has been continued.

Fourthly, the *wattle:* an imposition which had its rise so early as the tenth century; when it was demanded by the clergy, as the price of the holy water they distributed among the people. This perquisite, being afterwards transferred to the bishop, it came, at the reformation, to the crown; and from the crown, to the feudatory chief.

As there are proprietors, in both Shetland and the Orkneys, who hold their lands, without any written documents, and merely by immemorial possession; so there are others, in both the Orkneys and Shetlands, who hold their land by a more exceptionable tenure: namely, by GRIPPING. For some time after these islands came into the possession of the Scottish crown, they became a receptacle for convicts, out-laws, and all manner of vagabonds; who, not unfrequently, found means of wresting from poor udallers, estates, or parcels of land, in times when the law was often evaded or controlled, and *major vis* was every thing. Men of wealth and power in the country soon came to follow the example of those piratical and predatory strangers. And lands, thus violently seized on, are, without ceremony, stated, in some rent-rolls at this day, to be possessed in virtue of GRIPPING. There are many estates, nay, perhaps, the most of the great estates in Scotland, particularly in the Highlands, that owe their magnitude, in some measure, to *griping*, or, as the Scots say, GRIPPING, as well as some of those in the Orkney and Shetland islands.

I do not recollect any part of the habitable globe, where the mass of the people live under so great poverty and hardships as in the Shetland islands, the Hebridean SCALLAGS, or slaves, always excepted. The Shetland isles are, in fact, it appears, little else than an assemblage of rocks, moorish hills, and mosses. The Shetlanders seem to be like seals, amphibious animals. They derive their sustenance from the sea, though, like seals on their sandbanks, they must have a place for resting, and drawing breath.

The natural sterility of Shetland is strongly expressed by the following fact. So destitute are the poor Shetlanders of food for their stunted cows, that, in the latter end of spring, and the beginning of summer, before the heath, and what grass there is, springs up, they give them fish, boiled and broken down, bones and all, into a kind of mash. And the poor animals, compelled by hard hunger, actually eat this unnatural food.

Lord Dundas, as might be expected from the well-known liberality of his character, and others of the land-holders, have declared their willingness, and even desire, to emancipate the people from bondage. But the experiment, as above-noticed, has been made. The people destitute of capitals, and entirely dependent on the store-houses of the lairds and tacksmen, were they left to provide for themselves, would perish for want. Lord Dundas has bound all his tacksmen, upon all his estates in Shetland, to allow a free market to their sub-tenants, if they desire it: and is ready to assign fishing stations, with secure and permanent *domicilia*, wherever they shall be found fittest for the purpose. But the *tenants* have hitherto found it adviseable to continue on the old footing of personal service, or, what in truth may be called, as it is, prædial bondage, or slavery: so great is the difficulty of ameliorating the condition of mankind! Yet, it is to be hoped, that the emancipation of these islanders will one day be effected; when free fishing stations, and permanent domicilia, shall invite capital, and encourage free exertion.

For the business of fishing the Shetland islands are, beyond all doubt, singularly favourable. The

circumjacent sea abounds with fish of all kinds. Their harbours are innumerable, and, from the depth of water in them, piers would be unnecessary. Their fishers are hardy and intrepid. Accustomed to the most wretched accommodations and the hardest fare, they conduct the business of fishing at the least possible expense. English seamen require beef, porter, cheese, &c. whereas, a sufficient supply of oatmeal, tobacco, and spirits, would suffice for Shetlanders. All the provision which Shetland fishermen ever carry to sea with them is a small bottle of *blanda*, a cake of oaten or barley bread, and a bottle of gin to each man. On this provision they have been known to remain at sea three days and nights together.

This *blanda*, buttermilk, kept for a very long time, is mentioned by the historian Buchannan as the favourite beverage of the Hebridean islanders. They were wont to keep it, he tells us, for years.

The land-holders and tacksmen of Shetland have been charged, not only with compelling their tenants and cotters to fish for them, at their own expense, but also to purchase necessaries at their store-houses only, also at any price they please. This, I find, is not true. The fishers are under no manner of restriction from purchasing what articles they want at the cheapest market. But, without money and without credit, they depend for all things on their landlords or masters.

These are the results of what I read and heard about Shetland, in Edinburgh; where, indeed, I had a fairer opportunity of coming at the truth of the contested points than I should have had in the place itself.

It seems to be not a little singular that there should be so much difficulty in ascertaining the numbers of people in great cities: a matter which, one would imagine, admits of all the precision of arithmetic. The population of Edinburgh is estimated by some at eighty thousand, by others, very considerably above this number. That Edinburgh is a very populous, as well as a very affluent, place, may reasonably be inferred, from the flourishing state of the trade of begging there; though it is, perhaps, seldomer resorted to there than in almost any other city of equal magnitude.

Not many years ago, a young man, in the mercantile line, having occasion to go frequently between Edinburgh and Leith, was in the habit of giving charity to a poor man that stood generally near the middle of Leith Walk. Upon the young man not giving the poor man money as formerly, one day, when nobody happened to be passing, the poor man said, "Pray, young man, has any misfortune happened to you, that you have not of late given me sixpence as usual." The young man confessed there had. The poor man then whispered, specifying the number. "Call for David Black, at the head of Leith Walk, to-morrow, or any evening at eight, and you will hear of something to your advantage." The young man smiled at this, and had no intention of attending; however, as his curiosity was roused, he thought there could be no great harm in calling at the poor man's house. Upon touching the knocker, a neat servant opened the door, and ushered him into the parlour, where the old man, to whom he had given many a sixpence,

was sitting in an elegant elbow chair at the one side of a good fire, and Mrs. Black in one of the same kind at the other. Upon the young man's entering, Mr. Black, dressed in an elegant wig, and a suit of neat brown clothes, though a little old fashioned, rose, and, bowing, desired him to sit down, saying, he was glad to see him. When Mrs. Black retired, which she soon did, Mr. Black rose, went to a drawer, and, taking from thence a two hundred pound note, put it into the young man's hand, saying, "Sir, I have been often obliged to you, nay, more so than to any that passed. You are welcome to this; and, if you think it will be of any use to you, upon calling for me any evening at this hour, you may have more." The young man, looking at the note, was surprized; but was prevailed upon to put it into his pocket, and asked to stay supper, which he did. Mr. Black added, "I have nobody to care for but myself and Mrs. Black. My girl is provided for. You must not be angry with me. Having got the habit of begging, I cannot give it over. I have been three times prevailed upon to do this, but always found myself unhappy. I made four thousand pounds by selling gingerbread in the Parliament Close, where people pass to and from the courts of law, with a basket on my arm; but a stout young fellow, with a similar basket, by degrees, jostled me out of that place; after which, I took up my station where you daily see me, and where I have collected some thousands of pounds. The young man called some evenings after, and found the old couple as formerly, with the addition of Miss Black, their daughter, and only child, a fine,

modest, accomplished young woman, about seventeen years of age, just returned from the boarding-school at Musselburgh. The young man, having been highly pleased with the prudence, appearance, and amiable conduct of this young lady, at length obtained her consent, and married her; and, having retrieved his losses, which were much less than he once supposed, he found himself extremely happy. The only inconvenience attending his new state was, the difficulty of hindering Mr. Black from putting on old tattered clothes above his ordinary apparel, and going out a begging, which he sometimes did, notwithstanding all they could do to prevent it.

Before I quit Auld Reikie,* the kind reader will indulge my propensity to prattle, while I relate just one other anecdote.

Mr. B—n, a respectable, though seceding clergyman, in H—n, not far from this city, being poor, when a boy, was employed in driving frequently a farmer of East Lothian's horses. Having gone, one day, to Edinburgh, in company with many others, with grain to the market, while the horses were resting, and his companions sleeping beside them, Mr. B. went to the Parliament Close, where he heard the cheapest books were to be found, in quest of a Greek Testament. The proprietor of the shop, walking before the door when he passed, finding a poor ragged-like boy asking for a Greek Testament, asked him what he would do with it?

* The familiar appellation, or, as it were, nick name, by which Edinburgh is called among the people there, and in its vicinity. Reik means smoke.

"Why, read it, if it please your honour."—"Can you read it?"—"Why," replied the boy, "I will try it." Some of the shopmen having found one, put it into his hand, and the master said, "If you can read it, you shall have it for nothing." The boy took it, and, having read a page, translated it with great ease. The bookseller would have no money, though the boy, who had pulled out a half crown from a purse in his pocket, urged him much to take it, knowing that to be the price of the book. About twenty years after this, a well-dressed man came up to the same bookseller, who, as formerly, was walking before his door, but now with a wig and a staff, saying, "Sir, I believe I am your debtor." The bookseller said, "I do not know; but step in, and any of the young men will tell you."—"But," replied he, "it is to you personally that I am indebted." Looking in his face, he said, "Sir," I do not know that you owe me any thing." —"Yes, I certainly do.—Do you recollect, that about twenty years ago a poor boy came and got a Greek Testament from you, and did not pay for it." —"Yes, perfectly," replied the bookseller, "I have often thought of it, and the boy was no sooner gone, than I was angry with myself for not asking his name, and where he resided."—"I," replied the clergyman, "was the boy, my name is B—n, and I live at H—n." Upon looking again in his face and giving him his hand, he said, "Mr. B. I am glad to see you, I have often heard of you. We have here in our shop, as they have in every university library in the kingdom, your self-interpreting

Bible, your Church History, &c. &c. which have brought me in much money, and are more called for than any books in my shop.—Will you be so obliging as dine with me?" Which being agreed to, as was natural, some bottles of excellent wine went down, while they discoursed of the days of former years.

THE END.

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Page 28, Line 19, *for* dean Sherlock's, *read* Drelincourt's.
—— 29,—— 9, *for* turf, in which, *read* turf: in this tower.
—— 29,——22, *for* one thousand, *read* three hundred.
—— 33,——14, *for* pedatory, *read* predatory.
—— 42,——10 f. b. *for* see, *read* examine.
—— 46,——26, *for* twenty, *read* two.
—— 63,——16, *for* Polemio, *read* Polemo.
—— 67,—— 9, *for* who, *read* and.
—— 68,——20, *after* this, *read* the means of.
—— 75,——22, *for* Horat. *read* Persius.
—— 77,—— 5, *for* knows, *read* is sensible.
—— 82,——19, *after* of, *put* the.
—— 91,——18, *for* hinderance, *read* sustenance, and *dele* the full point.
—— 100,—— 8, *for* Heiles, *read* Hailes.
—— 103,—— 1, *for* centuries, *read* countries.
—— 105,—— 8, *for* Noe, *read* Noah.
—— 114,—— 1, *for* to stay, *read* stayed.
—— 114,—— 8, and elsewhere, *for* hebdomader, *read* hepdomader.
—— 114,——22, *for* longer and shorter, *read* longer and longer.
—— 119,—— 7, *for* sper edeundi, *read* spe redeundi.
—— 124,——12 f. b. *for* consults, *read* consists.
—— 125,——18, *for* land, *read* sand.
—— 129,—— 2, *dele* still.
—— 149,—— 2, f. b. *for* possessors, *read* professors.
—— 149,——12 f. b. *after* benefices, *put* by.
—— 149,——26, *for* the earl of Fife, *read* the earl of Kintore.
—— 151,——17, *for* Hills, *read* Hill.
—— 154,—— 2 f. b. *for* that, *read* the.
—— 158,——17, *for* commenced, *read* conceived.
—— 159,——10, *for* Ireland, *read* Iceland.
—— 159,——14, *for* constitution, *read* construction.
—— 174,—— 3, *for* thirteen, *read* eighteen.
—— 176,——29, *for* hundred, *read* thousand.
—— 184,——19, *for* old, *read* young.
—— 192.—— 8, *for* receiving, *read* raising.
—— 196, note *read* Catill.
—— 197, line 21, *for* the time, *read* mean time.
—— 197,—— 5, f. b. *for* heads, *read* seats.
—— 199,——22, *for* west, *read* best.
—— 199, note *for* Scaggerrc, *read* Scaggerac.
—— 203, line 4, *for* Antinomians, *read* Calvinists.
—— 223,—— 8, *for* this was, *read* these were.
—— 230,—— 1 f. b. *for* seen, *read* viewed.

Page 218, Line 5, *for* Cackmannanshire, *read* Clackmannanshire.
—— 249, —— 9, *after* but, *put* should.
—— 254, —— 12, *for* Athenus, *read* Athenæus.
—— 257, —— 15, *for* one, *read* two.
—— 265, —— 8, *for* taste, *read* condition.
—— 266, —— 5, *for* traveller, *read* reader.
—— 266, —— 7, *for* who, *read* where.
—— 275, —— 19, *dele* also.
—— 282, —— 14 f. b. *for* time, *read* mean time.
—— 282, —— 14, *dele* the second the.
—— 283, —— 2, *after* Aberbrothic, *read* an echo.
—— 287, —— 13 f. b. *read* houses of gentlemen.
—— 302, —— 14, *for* reduce, *read* cancel.
—— 307, —— 15, *after* cent. *add* above their price.
—— 312, —— 9 f. b. *dele* to.
—— 327, —— 15 f. b. for Slaine's, *read* Slane's.
—— 334, —— 14, 15, *for* Forgue, *read* Forvie.
—— 336, —— 15, *for* forty, *read* fifty.
—— 343, —— 4 f. b. *dele* as hares.
—— 400, —— 6 f. b. *for* ware, *read* weed.
—— 414, —— 16, *for* prevent, *read* secure.
—— 425, —— 6, *for* blood, *read* bleed.
—— 435, —— 19, *for* formerly, *read* I found.
—— 465, —— 12 f. b *for* valids, *read* invalids.
—— 473, —— 10. *for* counties, *read* country.
—— 592, —— 3, *for* camomile, *read* calomel.

The reader is also requested to excuse other inaccuracies of less consequence, and Scotticisms, occasioned by the Author's absence from the press.

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